

Passport to a cut-price Paris

Taken page 17

FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

Today's token page 43

TOMORROW: BUDGET 99

Anne Ashworth, Simon Jenkins, Anatole Kaletsky, Matthew Parris, Peter Riddell, Patience Wheatcroft

The best analysis. The best writers

30p

EVERY WEEKDAY

No compensation plan upsets owners

Countryside opened up to ramblers

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

RURAL landowners accused the Government of "destroying the goodwill of the countryside" yesterday by promising ramblers a legal right to roam over four million acres of mountains, moors, heaths and downs.

They insisted that the Government had misled the electorate by offering legislation rather than a voluntary agreement. And they were furious that they would not be compensated for having to open their land to the public.

The decision to go ahead with Labour's manifesto pledge that it would force owners to open up their land, was seen as a surprise victory for John Prescott over Tony Blair, who had favoured the voluntary approach.

But Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, did not just a spokesman on the legislation and was unable to give a commitment that it would be this side of an election. Government sources pointed out that it would take time to draw up maps to decide what land should be open to the public.

Legislation is unlikely before 2001, and there are certain to be further protests from the countryside lobby — it was the Countryside March last spring that prompted Mr Blair to adopt a more conciliatory approach. Mr Meacher told MPs yesterday that all the evidence showed that a voluntary approach was inadequate. Measures had to be in-



duced "to make sure people will be free in perpetuity" to explore open countryside. He also argued that landowners would not be entitled to compensation because there was no evidence that land values would fall.

Even so, officials said that the measures would cost about £3 million a year to implement, with a one-off starting cost of £8 million for fencing, gates and notices. Funding would be provided by the government, the National Lottery and local councils.

The new rules would not apply to any developed land or agricultural land, other than that used for extensive grazing, Mr Meacher said. There was no question of people being given the right to trample over crops or through other people's gardens, and dogs would have to be put on a lead.

He also disclosed that local "access forums" would be set up which would bring together interested parties, including landowners, conservationists and councils, to agree how access should be managed.

But the Countryside Landowners Association was furious that the Government was refusing to provide compensation. "The Government's decision to proceed with a statutory right of access on foot alone to mountain, moor, heath,

downland and commonland has destroyed the goodwill of the countryside and confirmed the worst fears of all who took part in the Countryside March," a spokesman said.

"The Government is aware that all legislation in the UK must stand up to the Protocol of the European Human Rights Convention. We believe that a statutory right of access without appropriate compensation will fail this test."

Richard Burge, chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, said: "The Government proposals disappoint us as the emphasis is on creation of rights for the majority, rather than protection of livelihoods of those rural people who reside in the areas targeted by this legislation."

"Insufficient emphasis has been placed on the responsibilities of walkers and how they will be enforced. However, we are pleased that Mr Meacher recognises that you cannot impose a national solution on the tapestry of the British countryside and its people."

The Ramblers Association welcomed the proposals, provided they were backed up by early legislation. "This is an historic moment," a spokeswoman said. "This is the first time any government has recognised that landowners cannot be trusted to open uncultivated land voluntarily."

The association was, however, suspicious of the appointment of Ewen Cameron as head of the Countryside Agency, which will be given powers to police the right to roam. Mr Cameron, a former president of the Country Landowners Association, will have the power to grant temporary access exemptions for landowners for breeding or shooting seasons.

Wrong foot, page 4
Leading article, page 23



Monica Lewinsky's tears were put down to jetlag and flu — but she still managed to sign her name eight times a minute

Monica beats the Iron Lady

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

MONICA'S STORY

Monica Lewinsky

PERHAPS it was jet lag or possibly the baggage music that serenaded her entrance into Harrods. But after just five minutes in the company of the British media, the woman who survived two Grand Jury hearings and six interrogations by Kenneth Starr's prosecutors had to be led away in tears.

Monica Lewinsky, who had arrived for the first signing session of Andrew Morton's biography, looked alarmed by the 150-strong wall of waiting cameramen. And faced with a barrage of shouts of "smile Monica", "over here, Monica", "hold the book up, come on!", she whispered "I can't do it" before being ushered to a

side room wiping her eyes. Harrods staff quickly explained she had "a bit of flu". "Monica hasn't been feeling too well", a spokesman told waiting customers. "I think she was feeling a bit overwhelmed. It was decided that she should leave the room for just a few minutes after it became too much."

Thirty minutes later, she re-emerged, flushed but smiling, and began signing books at

the impressive rate of eight a minute for the 400 people in a queue through the books' business management and military history section into the travel section and beyond.

Ms Lewinsky, sitting at an ornate table and wearing a navy blue pin-striped suit, smiled gamely at most of them saying simply "thank you very much" as they passed on their best wishes.

Chris Mitchell, from Mis-

souri, said: "I asked her to put the date and she said 'I don't even know what day it is'."

Mrs Anne Kersley, 39, who was first in the queue after waiting for six hours, said: "I told her it was terribly brave of her to come here today. I said, 'I will pray for you, but most of all I feel sorry for your mother. It must be so hard for her to watch you being chased around.' She said it was kind of me to say so. She was shaking like a leaf — she looked absolutely terrified."

Harrods, however, declared themselves delighted by her visit, which broke the store's record for sales at a book signing. Baronses Thatcher's appearance sold 1,000 copies of her autobiography *The Downing Street Years*. Ms Lewinsky sold 1,150.

Michael Howard to quit Shadow Cabinet

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MICHAEL HOWARD is to step down from the Tory frontbench in a move that will help William Hague to make another break with the past.

The most senior survivor of the Major Government has told Mr Hague that he wants to go in the next Shadow Cabinet reshuffle, expected in the summer. And he may be the first of several to bow out in the coming months. Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, has always made plain that he is ready to stand aside whenever Mr Hague wants.

Mr Howard, 57, said last night that he had served on the frontbench for 14 consecutive years and that was "probably long enough for anyone".

He said: "I have told 'William' that I want to leave the Shadow Cabinet at the next reshuffle. I want to speak on many topics other than foreign affairs. I intend to be an active MP and to support him from the backbenches."

The Shadow Foreign Secretary is understood to have made his decision shortly before he went to South Africa in January and to have written telling Mr Hague of his intentions when he returned on February 1.

While Mr Howard was away reports surfaced that Mr Hague wanted both him and John Redwood to stand down, although the party leadership denied the stories outright. Mr Hague apparently assured Mr Howard that the reports were wrong and told him that if he changed his mind about going, he should let him know.

However, Mr Howard has decided to bow out and to pursue his business interests — he already has three non-executive directorships. He also intends to continue as a backbencher, and to contest the next election.

The news of Mr Howard's imminent departure will inevitably be seen as another example of a senior Tory deciding that the party has little chance of winning the next election.

Last big hitter, page 2

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| TV & RADIO | 50, 51 |
| WEATHER | 26 |
| CROSSWORDS | 26, 52 |
| LETTERS | 23 |
| OBTUARIES | 25 |
| LIBBY PURVES | 22 |
| ARTS | 18-21 |
| CHESS & BRIDGE | 48 |
| COURT & SOCIAL | 24 |
| LAW, REPORT, ENGINEERING RESULTS | 45 |
| BUSINESS | 77-81 |

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$20, Belgium 8 Ffr 100, Canada \$15, Denmark 22.00, France 20.50, Germany 19.50, Greece 22.00, Hong Kong 22.00, India 15.00, Ireland 22.00, Italy 15.00, Japan 22.00, Korea 22.00, Malaysia 22.00, Mexico 22.00, New Zealand 22.00, Norway 22.00, Portugal 22.00, Singapore 22.00, South Africa 22.00, Sweden 22.00, Switzerland 22.00, Taiwan 22.00, Thailand 22.00, USA \$20, UK 15.00.
Periodicals postage paid at Rahway NJ. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Times of America International 305 West Road Avenel NJ 07001.



Breast implant banned

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A BREAST implant originally sold for its safety was withdrawn by the Government yesterday after patients complained of swelling and inflammation.

Trilucent implants contain soya oil, which was claimed to be completely safe. But up to 30 of the 5,000 women fitted with them have suffered reactions that may have been linked to the implants leaking.

The effects disappear when the implants are removed, but, on the advice of the Medical Devices Agency, the Health Department ordered that the implant should be withdrawn pending tests. It said that not enough was known about

long-term safety, the rate of breakdown of the soya oil and what it does to the body.

The distributors, Lipomatrix and Collagen Aesthetics International, based in Thame, Oxfordshire, agreed and patients were advised to speak to their surgeon or GP. Help-lines have been set up by the Health Department (0800 004440) and the distributors (0800 216 613).

Since the Trilucent implant was introduced to Britain in 1995, the Medical Devices Agency has received 74 "adverse incident" reports. Many were from women unhappy with the appearance of their breasts. But between 20 and

30 cases involved localised swelling and redness.

The problem has been caused by the soya oil breaking down differently from the artificially-aged oil used when the implant was first approved. The effect is to create some biologically-active substances which have caused inflammation. The new tests aim to discover how toxic these substances are.

Amanda Cameron, a vice-president of Collagen International, insisted the product was safe, adding: "I would have these implants tomorrow."

Surgeon's view, page 5
Dr Stuttaford, page 16

Straw pays £200,000 for Pinochet

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

JACK STRAW has given Surrey police £200,000 to help pay for protecting General Augusto Pinochet. The bill for keeping the former Chilean dictator safe is believed to be costing the taxpayer over £50,000 a week.

MPs are demanding that the Home Secretary reveals how much his decision to make the 63-year-old General face an extradition trial has cost in security.

Police have been guarding him round the clock since he was arrested in October. If the Law Lords decide next week that he must stand trial the operation to guard him could last another year or more.

End of a cricketing era

By Brian Hobson

THE decline of the West Indies as a force in world cricket spiralled further yesterday when they were dismissed by Australia for 51, the lowest score in their history.

Once feared by their test rivals as being practically unbeatable, there is now a fear that they may be heading towards oblivion.

Defeat in the first test in Port of Spain, Trinidad, followed a 5-0 reverse in South Africa and arrived just when the sport, once synonymous with Caribbean life, desperately needed a pick-me-up. If there is delight in certain quarters that the side who battered all-comers into submission in the

80s — beating England 5-0 in successive series — should now receive a taste of its own medicine then it is tempered by fears for the future of the game.

Only in cricket do the islands unite to form one team and the successes under Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards brought pride to the area. Failure is divisive, however, and as the islands bicker among themselves the alternative options of soccer and basketball become ever more attractive to the next generation.

The conveyor belt of fast bowlers that moved from Holding and Roberts through Garner, Marshall and Croft to

Ambrose and Walsh has broken down, the dashing stroke-makers to rival Sobers, Richards, Greenidge and Lloyd have dumped their makeshift bats on the beaches.

The authorities have no money, facilities even at the major grounds are poor and the television companies have lost interest.

Nothing is more symptomatic of the changing fortunes than the demise of Brian Lara. Holder of the individual world record first-class and test scores (501 and 375) he has become a shadow of a batsman who once played like a prince.

Australia triumph, page 52

£1 off each one-way flight bought on the Internet

£1

Book online at **WWW.easyJet.CO.UK**

Blair diverts right-to-roam activists along the Third Way

Two years ago, new Labour fought a general election promising a "right to roam". People assumed that "right" meant a real right: a right in law.

Yesterday afternoon a minister rephrased the Marxist "right to roam" to the more Third Way "right of area access", restricted to the countryside involved in "mountain, moor, heath and down", excluded Scotland, placed Wales under the care of its incoming assembly, and told MPs that proposals would take time to

prepare. Ministers could not guarantee anything this side of a general election. Why, maps would have to be made. In short, the minister restated a two-year-old intention, focused and somewhat restricted, but failed to say when.

He was greeted by something approaching sobriety of relief. Labour backbenchers had feared the Government was going to abandon the commitment altogether. "I feel kinda warm towards new Labour at the moment," gasped Gordon Prentice (Lab, Stroppey Left,

Pendle), blinking in disbelief at the sudden warmth of his feelings for the Government.

As hairy lefties behind them grovelled in relief, one watched ministers more in admiration than mockery. What an achievement — so to fan your supporters' fears that when at last you tell them you will do a bit of what you promised, they fall on your neck in gratitude. Tony Blair's continuing ability to combine the hero's swagger with the hedger's creep is astonishing. And the Tories played La-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

bour's game. One after the other they rose yesterday, pink with indignation that someone was going to start consulting on the drawing up of a set of maps which could one day — if they are ever agreed — be used as the basis for an open-ended consultation. Oh — and the chair of the agency being set up to consider this is a

former Chairman of the Country Landowners' Association. Gentlemen, this is not the end of civilisation as we know it. Welsh Nationalists were cross too. Elyn Llywy (Plaid, Cymru, Meirionnydd & Conwy) shocked the minister, Michael Meacher, by calling the right to roam a "right to traipse". Nicholas Soames (C,

Mid Sussex), in a moving plea for the safety of nesting chicks — as heartfelt as any Walrus tears for little oysters — all but called it the "right to spoil my shooting".

Everybody with a beard was enthusiastic, but there are beards and beards. Jeremy Corbyn (Lab, Islington N) has a progressive urban thinker's beard. He couldn't wait to send his constituents (the most densely packed in Britain, he said) to dislodge Mr Soames's chicks. "Tories 'pretend to love the countryside, for the purposes

of killing". Andrew Bennett (Lab, Denon & Reddish), has a rambler's beard: a big black bush in walking boots, with a squeaky voice. "Good news!" he twittered. Bearded Paddy Tipping, a minister, nodded happily on the bench.

As Labour chirruped and the Tories squawked, an unworthy thought struck this sketch. No government, surely, could finalise a foxhunting Bill until they had sorted out access to the countryside — could they?

And how can they sort out

access until the mapmakers have agreed their maps? And how can mapmakers begin mapping until the new Countryside Agency has agreed what they are to map? And... my goodness me — another general election already! Clear the legislative pipeline. How time flies.

The First Way is Do it. The Second Way is Don't. The Third Way is Yes, super! — by all means — Tony's right with you on this one... but not yet.

Critic in charge, page 4

Ulster is given Good Friday deadline again

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday gave Unionist and republican leaders a deadline of Good Friday to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament or face the collapse of the peace accord reached exactly a year earlier.

Mr Mowlem abandoned tomorrow's target date for creating the Province's new executive, despite claims by Gerry Adams that such a capitulation to Unionist intransigence would plunge the process "into crisis, big-time".

But the Northern Ireland Secretary promised to trigger the mechanism for establishing the executive by April 2, come what may. At that point one side or the other would have to give ground or Ulster would face the prospect of wholesale violence.

Mr Mowlem said she had "no Plan B". Sources said she was deliberately forcing the issue because any hope of resolving the impasse will vanish after Easter. The marching season begins on Easter Monday and Ian Paisley has pledged to turn June's Euro-elections into a referendum on the accord.

The effect will be to recreate the pressure-cooker atmosphere that produced the accord in a frantic final week of negotiation last year. Both

Dublin and Washington are believed to have endorsed this strategy.

Dr Mowlem's hopes of transferring power to the executive tomorrow were dashed by the IRA's refusal to start disarming and the Unionists' refusal to admit Sinn Féin to government until it does.

Just hours before her statement, Mr Adams, Sinn Féin's president, declared that the Government's failure to proceed tomorrow would cause a major crisis. He said that he would do all in his power to ensure that the IRA remained on ceasefire, but some people were using the decommissioning issue to try to force Sinn Féin out of the political process and the IRA back to war.

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, will meet Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness at Stormont today, but neither side anticipates progress.

Next week President Clinton will bring all his influence to bear when he meets Mr Trimble, Mr Adams and other party leaders at St Patrick's Day festivities in Washington.

Thereafter Dr Mowlem envisages intense negotiations, with Tony Blair and Bertie Aherne, the Irish Taoiseach,

likely to be involved. Unless the deadlock is broken by the end of March, Dr Mowlem will trigger the mechanism for establishing the executive.

The politicians would then be in uncharted and dangerous waters. Mr Trimble could seek Sinn Féin's expulsion, or "park" the process by demanding a government review of the accord's implementation. But both he and Mr Adams know that political vacuums in Northern Ireland are almost invariably filled by bloodshed.

Dr Mowlem and David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, increased the pressure on Sinn Féin and the IRA yesterday when they signed four inter-governmental treaties to establish the new cross-border and British-Irish bodies once the executive is formed. Both ministers emphasised that just "one piece of the jigsaw" remained to be put in place.

The *Irish Times* blamed the IRA for the deadlock, saying that "from the beginning the IRA has not moved a millimetre". But Niall O'Dowd, a friend of Mr Adams, cautioned against the "mistaken assumption that the IRA would not go back to war under any circumstances".



Michael Howard is applauded with his wife Sandra at the Tory conference in 1995

Something of the night is now someone of the past

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL HOWARD'S departure from frontline politics is unlikely to trigger communal weeping in the Tory party but few Conservatives will deny that they have lost one of their biggest hitters.

It is this paradox — that he was good but never well liked — that probably scuppered Mr Howard's attempt to lead the Tories in 1997, after their general election defeat. Mr Howard almost persuaded William Hague to drop out

and agree to be his deputy if Mr Howard won the race. Despite apparently agreeing to the deal over champagne, Mr Hague backed out the next day. Many of Mr Howard's supporters never forgave Mr Hague.

When Ann Widdecombe declared that there was "something of the night" about Mr Howard, she aired the feelings of many at Westminster. And it did not help that Mr Howard, who was a highly successful QC before becoming an MP in 1983, had a reputation for smugness.

But this did not hinder a rapid rise up the ministerial ladder. He entered politics late, at the age of 42, and went on to hold a succession of jobs before becoming Home Secretary in 1993. It was at the Home Office that he set his political profile in stone. He tackled crime with an iron fist, but

a number of prison escapes undermined his credibility.

And although his blustering and crime speeches delighted the party faithful, one of his outbursts — that children brought up without fathers were likely to turn to crime — backfired terribly. On cue, the former husband of his wife, the *Sexes* model Sandra Paul, revealed that Mr Howard's adulterous relationship with her had taken away their son from his father.

A source close to Mr Hague said: "He has been a thoroughly professional member of the Shadow Cabinet. He has run his opposite number ragged. He has provided a valuable source of advice, his experience will be missed." Mr Howard made plain his departure had "absolutely nothing" to do with Mr Hague's new "kitchen-table Toryism", disclosed in *The Times* yesterday.

Hague supports people's march on euro

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday backed the idea of a "people's march" against the euro as he launched the Tory commission that will argue the case for keeping the pound.

The Conservative leader also outlined the party's new strategy of focusing on "kitchen-table" issues, citing potential membership of the euro as a good example.

Mr Hague said a mass rally in London against the euro, modelled on the Countryside Alliance march last year which attracted 300,000 people, was "a very good idea".

"It is vital to show that there are people of all political persuasions, and none, who feel very strongly about this. A march may be one of the ways of doing that," he added.

The move came as the Anti-Maastricht Alliance announced that it would hold a march against the euro on May 29. The so-called March for Freedom will take place in conjunction with a ceremony at Runnymede where the Magna Carta was signed.

The new euro commission, headed by Sir John Nott, the former Tory Cabinet minister, is expected to report later this year on the economic benefits of Britain remaining outside the euro. Set up largely to provide an alternative to the Government's national change-over plan, it will technically be independent of Tory Central Office and privately financed.

Sir John, 67, currently chairman of Lazard's Brothers merchant bank, said: "There are 400 countries in the world with their own currency. I am not sure why we shouldn't have our own."

Leading article and Letters, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamilton accused over action

Neil Hamilton, the former Conservative MP, was accused yesterday of seeking to undermine the sovereignty of Parliament by bringing a libel action against Mohamed Al Fayed.

George Carman, QC, representing the Harrods owner, said that Mr Hamilton, the former MP for Tatton, was seeking to "overturn the findings of proceedings of Parliament". Mr Carman was opening an appeal by Mr Al Fayed who is seeking to stop Mr Hamilton's libel action against him.

Pay-per-view fear

Chief constables fear pay-per-view football will lead to a rise in violence and congestion as more supporters watch in pubs. The Association of Chief Police Officers has contacted the FA Premier League and Football League about its fears.

Sarwar cleared

The Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar was cleared of illegally adding four names to the electoral register in the Glasgow Govan constituency after the prosecution said that it wished to withdraw the charge for legal reasons.

Driver let off

The Crown Prosecution service has dropped charges against Gary Davis, a taxi driver from Birtley, Tyne and Wear, who was booked for overtaking on a zebra crossing while rushing a kidney patient to hospital.

Hole in skull

An RAF surgeon who operated on a woman with carache "lost his way" and drilled a 5cm hole in her skull, a medical conduct committee was told. The hearing into allegations against Wing Commander Derek Hall, continues.

...for once
get what you
want out of
the budget...

BBC NEWS

Get the budget news you want with the BBC. For detailed reports and commentary on the Chancellor's speech choose from live broadcasts on BBC NEWS 24, Westminster on BBC TWO, BBC RADIO 4, RADIO 5 LIVE, BBC LOCAL RADIO and 3 days of continuous coverage from the Commons on BBC PARLIAMENT. For in depth analysis and special programming turn to BBC RADIO TWO, 4 and 5 LIVE, or Newsnight on BBC TWO. To get concise budget reports watch BBC NEWS at Six O'clock and Nine O'clock, with BBC TV Regional News at 6.30pm. Or to have a personal analysis of what the budget changes mean to you visit BBC News Online at www.bbc.co.uk/budget99

Brown set to boost enterprise

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN will today present a "broadly neutral" Budget designed to leave room for the Bank of England to make further cuts in interest rates.

In what he described last night as a package for "work, enterprise and families", the Chancellor, who met the Prime Minister twice yesterday to finalise his plans, is expected to unveil tax reforms, including moves towards the long-heralded 10p starting rate of tax.

This is expected to be met by the phased or outright removal of other reliefs, including the married couple's allowance and the remainder of mortgage interest tax relief. With interest rates low, now would be a relatively painless time to do it. The Chancellor is likely to signal that the tax-

ation of child benefit for higher rate taxpayers will start next year, although an increase in the benefit is also expected.

The Chancellor is believed to be taking a cautious outlook, partly because of revenue shortfalls in areas such as Excise duty on tobacco and tax on North Sea oil. He also wants to send a message to the markets that he will not repeat the mistakes the Conservatives made a decade ago.

Help for business is likely in the form of tax breaks for research and development by small firms and incentives for employees to invest in their own companies.

Mr Brown last night told ITN that his Budget would be aimed at increasing the country's wealth and making it more enterprising. He said: "It is a better deal for work, for enterprise and for families. We have had a major review of economic policy and how we can be more produc-

tive and wealthy as a country. I will be bringing forward some of the conclusions." Mr Brown will announce plans for every household to receive leaflets explaining how taxes are raised and funds spent.

He will extend the welfare-to-work programme to the over-fifties. Measures to tax emissions of carbon to meet Britain's commitment at the 1997 Kyoto summit are expected. Mr Brown is committed to raising the petrol duty by at least 6 per cent a year, and to increasing duty on cigarettes by 5 per cent as part of health policy.

Mr Brown's third Budget will last about an hour. His refreshment will be Scottish water.

Michael Gove, page 22
Boost for Brown, page 21
Anatole Kaletsky, page 31

Labour to keep euro out of poll

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will try to avoid campaigning on the single currency in June's European elections amid fears that pro-euro posturing could cost the party votes. The strategy reflects concern in some quarters of Downing Street that the Government's "gear-change" towards the euro is in danger of alienating the public.

The approach sets up the prospect of an election campaign in which the central issue facing Britain and Europe is kept to the fringes. The Tories are yet to settle their campaign strategy but are worried that focusing on the euro would further divide them.

Tony Blair is being warned that the National Changeover Plan, announced last month, has placed ministers too far ahead of prevailing opinion. Senior MPs are now looking to those Cabinet ministers less enthusiastic about pursu-

ing a fast track to the single currency, such as Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, to "set alarm bells ringing" and rein in the Prime Minister and Gordon Brown.

Mrs Beckett, Labour's election campaign co-ordinator, has made clear privately that the euro should not feature large in the elections.

Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke have delayed their involvement in the cross-party campaign to promote the single currency until after the June 10 poll amid fears that their trumpeting of the euro would damage the Tory cause. Although William Hague sees the Government's pro-euro stance as an opportunity for the Opposition to reconnect with large parts of the electorate, he is also aware that pushing the issue too far could inflame Tory divisions.

Roman Baroque Drawings

Until 18 April 1999

closed 2 April 1999

Monday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 12-6

Admission £1
Concessions 50p

Room 90
Montague Place Entrance

BRITISH MUSEUM Recorded Information for disabled visitors 0171-637 7384



Books marked for distinction

Grading indicates levels of violence, predictability and optimism, report Helen Johnstone and Susie Steiner

MODERN classics and great works of literature are to be marked out of ten for sex, violence, optimism and a range of other categories as part of a £300,000 scheme for libraries funded by the National Lottery.

The plan was welcomed by some authors, including Will Self, who said that anything that would lead readers to new pastures was laudable. But the novelist Fay Weldon called the scheme laughable, saying that it would result in "nobody reading anything that might take them by surprise".

Thirty-three librarians from local authorities across England have just over 12 months to grade 1,000 books for the Branching Out scheme. If it proves to be a success, the database could be expanded to cover more than 5,000 works.

Dennis Lovatt, co-ordinator at Birmingham Library, said yesterday that Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* had scored two points for optimism, happiness and humour, but seven for violence and ten for emotions.

Trainspotting, Irvine Welsh's story of heroin addiction, scored one for optimism and two for happiness, but nine for violence, repulsiveness and realism.

The best-selling *Bridget Jones's Diary*, by Helen Fielding, scored nine for readability and humour and ten for emotion, but five for optimism.

Mr Lovatt said: "Some people get into a rut with reading and once they have read everything by their favourite author they don't know what to read next."

"People want to have books recommended to them. Instead we will be classifying

... AND FOUR AUTHORS ATTEMPT TO SCALE WUTHERING HEIGHTS

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Fay Weldon</p> <p>1 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>2 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>3 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>4 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>5 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>6 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>7 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>8 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>9 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>10 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> | <p>Will Self</p> <p>1 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>2 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>3 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>4 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>5 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>6 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>7 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>8 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>9 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>10 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> | <p>Jilly Cooper</p> <p>1 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>2 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>3 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>4 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>5 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>6 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>7 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>8 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>9 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>10 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> | <p>Lisa Jardine</p> <p>1 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>2 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>3 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>4 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>5 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>6 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>7 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>8 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>9 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> <p>10 pt: "It's a very predictable book. It's wonderful."</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

Wuthering Heights, by Emily Brontë, published in 1847. Plot: two families, the Earnshaws and the Lintons, fight out a battle of sexual passion versus moral order on the Yorkshire moors in a tale of obsessive love between Catherine and Heathcliff.

more diverse literature, such as fiction by black British writers, gay and lesbian writers, experimental writers and translations of foreign novels. These kinds of books often find themselves in a dusty corner of a library with no one ever taking them out because people simply don't know about them.

The librarians pioneering the scheme have been selected by the Society of Chief Librarians and are undertaking special training in promoting literature to a wider audience. Rachel Van Riel, the society's director, said: "Readers will decide how much sadness and happiness they want, sex or no sex, and the levels of violence."

The librarians involved will read two books each month during the three-year training period, but Weldon questioned their position as arbiters of taste. "I would like to know what qualifications these people have. Why should we trust them? What do they know of

emotions? You might get a librarian who has never had an emotion in her life," she said. Self, however, said: "Only an out-and-out snob would find it offensive. My novels would get zero for optimism but that wouldn't turn me off because I'm a miserable pessimist and I'm sure there are lots out there like me."

"I have the literary establishment but I like readers and I like libraries and anything that will lead people into books I'm happy about."

Jilly Cooper, the author of a series of blockbuster novels, including *Riders*, said that the concept of grading was ridiculous. "All the wrong people will go and read books like *Trainspotting* because of the violence. It's like categorising drink with its alcohol content — it's so arbitrary. Your idea of violence might be quite different to mine."

Ms Van Riel said that librarians working on the scheme would promote lesser-known works to a wider range of readers. "They are learning how to

Shopping is next to godliness, says new liturgy

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SHOPPING may bring Christians closer to God than going to church, according to the official church liturgy for the millennium.

The new church millennium worship book requires worshippers to meditate on the hard work involved in shopping. "Where we shop, how we shop and what we buy is a living statement of what we believe," states the liturgy. "Shopping which involves the shopper in making ethical and religious judgments may be nearer to the worship God requires than any number of pious prayers in church."

The book, the first of two millennium worship books, has been published days after a couple announced their plans to have their wedding blessed in a supermarket. At the same time, the Lakeside shopping centre in Essex has announced plans to build Britain's first shoppers' chapel.

The millennium shopping meditation is part of the proposed Harvest Festival liturgy published in *New Start Worship* (£8, New Start 2000). The prayers have been put together by the ecumenical group Churches Together in England which is co-ordinating the Churches' millennium plans. The same group is responsible for the millennium prayer or "resolution" which makes no mention of Christ, and is also making plans for a "millennium candle" to be distributed to every home in England for New Year's Eve.

The liturgy advises: "If we take our roles as God's stewards seriously, shoppers collectively are a very powerful group." It adds: "If, when we ourselves are not on the poverty line, we always go for the cheapest price, without considering that this price is achieved through ethically unacceptable working conditions somewhere in the world, we are making a statement about our understanding of the word neighbour."

The name of the footballer cited in literary mystery

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A FORMER Watford and England footballer is at the centre of a literary mystery in Italy involving the novelist Umberto Eco and a group of anarchists. The group use the collective identity "Luther Blissett" to hide their identity.

Blissett played — briefly — for AC Milan, but scored only five times in 30 games for the club in 1982, earning him the nickname "Luther Blissett" and giving rise to the gibe that Milan had bought "the wrong black Watford player". (The "right" player would have been John Barnes.)

In March 1997 four young men accused of travelling on a train without a ticket all answered "Luther Blissett" when asked for their names in court. It emerged that the loosely organised group of self-styled anarchists had been struck by Blissett in Italy.

In his latest incarnation, "Luther Blissett" has written *Q*, a 650-page novel set in Renaissance times, with a mixture of real and imaginary characters. It is full of historical and literary allusions in the manner of Eco, author of *The Name of the Rose*. Described as "a saga of the good and evil", the novel is set against a background of espionage, the Inquisition's ruthless struggle to root out heresy, Martin Luther and the Reformation, holy wars and peasant uprisings. "Q" is the code name of the



Blissett says he is not pleased, "but what can you do?"

hero, a theological student who becomes the right-hand man of Gian Pietro Carafa, the Neapolitan aristocrat who became the fanatical and narrow-minded Pope Paul IV (1555-1559), clashing with Eliza-



Eco denies that he is the man behind the book *Q*

beth I and introducing the Index of Forbidden Books.

According to *La Repubblica*, *Q* was written by Federico Guglielmi, Luca Di Meo, Giovanni Catabriga and Fabrizio Bellandi. They refuse to give biographical details, beyond saying they are all between 26 and 35 and are all from Bologna. *Il Messaggero* said the book is a "masterful fresco depicting the struggle of the individual to escape from his preordained destiny... a metaphor for the united Europe of today."

The authors said they had chosen the 16th century because it "saw the birth of all that is rotten in modern life: Europe, mass communications, the police state, financial capital. It took six months to research the history, another six months to work out the plot

and two years to write it," they said, speaking "collectively".

Collective writing was "like a jazz band — some are virtuoso bits, other parts we play together. Or a video game in which 20 people are credited as authors. We hope *Q* will be posted on the Internet. A novel nowadays is like interactive software — this is the future of creative writing."

The anarchists said they would end their attempts to "cause panic in the sanctuaries of power" in 2000, "because as Cary Grant said, it's better to go a minute early, leaving people wanting more, rather than a minute too late, when people are getting bored."

The publishers said they were waiving copyright on the book, in the spirit of "Luther Blissett". "Anyone can reprint it," Eco, meanwhile, has denied that the book is an elaborate "joke within a joke", and that he is "Luther Blissett".

The anarchists — their hoaxes include Naomi Campbell's alleged cellulite problem and an exhibition of "chimpanzee art" — say "anyone can use the name to show their anger."

They chose Blissett because he was "a nice Afro-Caribbean guy who had problems with the Italian way of playing football and became a target of racist jokes. The Luther Blissett project is a way of taking revenge on stupidity."

Blissett, back on the staff at Watford, said yesterday: "I am not pleased, but what can you do about it?"

If you have a mortgage and can answer yes to any of the following questions, we'll prove we can save you money.

- ☐ do you have a current account?
- ☐ do you owe money on your credit card?
- ☐ do you have any savings?
- ☐ do you have any personal loans?

All you need to do is remortgage with a Virgin One account and have borrowings of more than £50,000. Call us and we'll show you how much you can save.



www.virgin-direct.co.uk/home

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

PC 'sprayed gas at ex-lover he killed'

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A POLICEMAN squirted his former girlfriend in the face with CS gas he had taken from a police station and then stabbed her to death, a court was told yesterday. Owen Palmer, 55, had allegedly lain in wait for Christine Johnson, 56, a care assistant, after harassing her for 15 months. A week before the killing he had been trained in how to use CS spray.

Norwich Crown Court was told that less than a year before the fatal attack last August, he had been warned by her solicitor that he might be guilty of stalking her and could face legal action. Charles

Wide, QC, for the prosecution, said that PC Palmer had been unable to accept that his relationship with Miss Johnson, who worked with disabled children, was over. The officer had waited outside the house in Norwich, where she lived with her parents. Armed with a knife and the CS spray he had struck as she returned from a visit to a friend, he said.

After the attack PC Palmer, who denies murder, had gone to the police station where he worked, given himself up and told a senior officer that he had "murdered his girlfriend".

Mr Wide told the jury that the issue was not whether PC Palmer had killed

Miss Johnson, but whether at the time of the killing he had been suffering from a depressive illness that substantially impaired his responsibility for her death.

PC Palmer had been unable to accept the break-up of the relationship. But although he was "plainly pessimistic and unhappy", he had continued to work satisfactorily at his job in a crime management unit.

Mr Wide said PC Palmer had been on a course to learn about the use of CS spray eight days before he killed Miss Johnson. "He knew that it would make her less able to defend herself when he attacked her with the knife." The trial continues.

The Virgin One account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Call us for an Essential Guide. Life Insurance is required. You must be aged 18 or over. The One account must be repaid by the time you retire. The rate of interest depends on the amount borrowed compared to the value of your home. For example, if you borrowed £70,000 secured against a home worth £120,000, you would pay 6.7%. This rate is variable and correct at £2,999. In this example, over 25 years a customer remortgaging a freehold home in England would pay 6.9% APR. This APR includes land registration fees and our solicitor's and valuer's fees which you will have to pay. In this example these fees would amount to £432. You would also have to pay your own solicitor's fees. In calculating the APR we have assumed you will pay your solicitor £100. Assuming that you have an income of £35,000 a year, spent evenly throughout the month, paying your income into the One account would reduce your borrowings and save you interest at 6.7%. This alone would repay the borrowing on a 25 year £70,000 loan 11 months early, saving £3,029. If an annual pay rise of 5% was added, where an extra 1% of total earnings was left in the One account each year, the loan would be repaid 10 years 7 months earlier, saving £29,339. Paying £2,500 savings into the account as well would repay the loan 11 years 2 months earlier saving £33,035. Examples of what you may be paying if you organise your finances all over the place are: Buy-to-let Standard APR 21.4% (uncertainty); Lloyd's Bank Unsecured Personal Loan APR 13.9% and Lowest Credit Zone Overdraft APR 24.9% (assuming an overdraft of £1,000, monthly interest rate of 1.39% and monthly fee of £5). Transferring these borrowings to the One account would mean that you pay 6.7% on all your borrowings. Source: Moneyfacts 20/99. Calls are recorded and monitored. The Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Oakway House, Whitting Road, Norwich, NR4 6EL. Representative only of Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance, pensions and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct Marketing group.

Ramblers fear boot is on the wrong foot

THE new Countryside Agency, which will police the right to roam, is to be headed by a former president of the Countryside Landowners' Association, who is an outspoken opponent of increased access.

Even Cameron will have a key role in the implementation of the regulations. His quango will rule on exemptions from the statutory right to roam and he can be expected to take a much tougher line with ramblers than with estate owners.

The appointment was welcomed by countryside groups, but the Ramblers' Association described it as "absolutely staggering". Mr Cameron's deputy, Pamela Warhurst, the Labour leader of Calderdale council, has been chosen as a figure more sympathetic to ramblers, but she is no right-to-roam activist. Harold Southorpe, of the Calderdale Ramblers' Association, said that she was not an active campaigner but he thought she backed their efforts to improve access to the Brontë moors in her borough.

Over the next 12 months the agency and its Welsh counterpart, the Countryside Council

Post for 'serial path-blocker' upsets walkers, report Mark Henderson and Jill Sherman

for Wales, will draw up draft maps showing where the statutory right would apply.

The agency and national park authorities will also be given powers to close land, or "otherwise restrict access", either permanently or temporarily. Land could be closed through breeding seasons for various species, after consultation with nature conservation and heritage bodies, as well as new local access forums.

Landowners will have discretion to close their land for up to 28 days a year, mainly for land management reasons such as heather burning or shooting, although up to 12 days could be for other reasons. But Mr Cameron will

also be able to authorise the closure of land or temporary restrictions unilaterally where there are other sound land management reasons.

Land would be closed to the public where there was a risk to health and safety or where the Ministry of Defence needed to for military use.

Opposing Mr Cameron's appointment, David Beskin of the Ramblers' Association said that he was a "serial path-blocker". Other campaigners likened the move to "putting an alcoholic in charge of a pub".

In past protests, access campaigners have burnt him in effigy, and accuse him of interfering with footpaths on his farm in Ilminster, Somerset.

He has long been at the forefront of landowners' efforts to see off right to roam, and is credited with the development of the alternative doctrine of "voluntary access" that will be applied to agricultural and developed land. He is close to Tony Blair, having advised the Country Landowners' Association's 50,000 members not to fear Labour ahead of the 1997 election, and his influence is



Ewen Cameron taking a relaxed attitude to ramblers on his Somerset farm; his sympathies, though, lie with landowners

thought to have tempered government plans.

In 1996, Mr Cameron was embarrassed by the revelation that a potato crop on his farm had been planted in such a way as to block a public footpath. He went on to apologise for the measure, which he said had been an error by a farmhand.

One of the more important concessions in yesterday's document was the establishment of local access forums. These will be advisory groups made up of representatives of users, landowners, managers, local councils, local businesses and trade unions. They would be

established at county or National Park level and would advise on local rights of way and on proposals for closures or restrictions. The forums would put forward recommendations to the Countryside Agency for ratification.

The introduction of a statutory right to roam will bring England and Wales into line with Scotland, where proposals to grant hillwalkers, mountaineers and ramblers rights of access were published last month.

Draft legislation pledges a statutory right to land and water, exercised responsibly, for recreation and passage.

Another step on Labour's road to free country

By Mark Henderson

THE proposals to transform public access to the countryside announced yesterday by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, are inspired by a cause that has long been close to the heart of the Labour movement.

The reforms, while less sweeping than many campaigners had hoped for, will start to fulfil promises to guarantee the right to roam made most forcefully by John Smith, the late Labour leader whose death in 1994 cleared the way for Tony Blair to become Prime Minister.

Mr Smith, a "Munro-bagger" who walked the Scottish hills to keep fit after his first heart attack, was a passionate advocate of the right to roam, a vice-president of the Ramblers' Association and the latest in a line of socialist politicians who have campaigned for access reform.

The first Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, was among the leading lights of the movement in the 1930s. The cause took off after the Second World War, when Labour politicians placed

themselves at the forefront of moves to enshrine public access to the countryside in law.

Hugh Dalton, the Chancellor, was among those who joined a Ramblers' Association demonstration staged for the press in the Pennines in 1947, the first of its kind. Also present was the young firebrand MP Barbara Castle, who was later to influence Mr Smith's views on rambling.

Their Government then took the biggest legal strides yet towards the right to roam with the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, which provided for local access agreements with landowners and the new National Parks, with some guaranteed access.

The legislation disappointed many campaigners who had hoped for more sweeping reform. The Bill was the last piece of legislation passed by the Attlee Government to ease its passage through the Lords ahead of the election, more radical clauses were removed in a compromise with landowners.

The fight goes on for rare Pennine view

By Paul Wilkinson
North East Correspondent

ON A clear day, they say, you can see Blackpool Tower from the 1,700ft summit of Lad Law in the Pennines.

There are not many clear days in this corner of England, but then again few people ever get the chance to look for the coast 50 miles away. Lad Law lies in the heart of Boulsworth Moor, thousands of acres of disputed territory on the Lancashire-Yorkshire border.

Much of the land is part of the Savile estate, owned by the 3rd Baron Savile; part is the estate of the Moores football pools family; and the rest is controlled by Yorkshire Water and United Utilities. Access, even to the Pennine Way, which skirts it, is restricted to a handful of rights of way.

More than 40 years ago ramblers persuaded the Lancashire County Council to grant rights of access to 235 acres of moorland, opening up a ridge walk with spectacular views into the Pennine valleys. But the owners appealed to the Government and in 1956 the orders were overturned.

"It has been an ongoing seamless campaign ever since to gain access," said Harry Southorpe, a member of the Ramblers' Association from Hebden Bridge. "It is a wonderful place and the public should have access to it."

"In the Fifties the water authorities claimed access would pollute the water, but that's not the case now. The land owners just said it would frighten the birds they wanted to shoot."

Gwen Goddard, from Hebden Bridge, said: "Two hundred years ago this was all open common land... The Brontës came over from Harworth and many others besides, but now set one foot off the path and you can be threatened with a trespass action."

A spokesman for North West Water, part of United Utilities, said: "People should enjoy managed access and we have opened up a circuit to the top. But the area does contain a site of special scientific interest, so we have to take care."

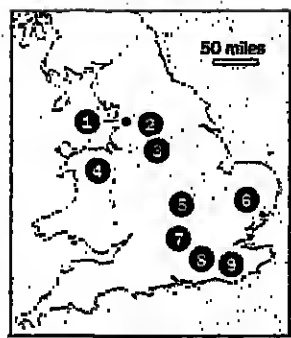
NEW REGULATIONS BRING MIXED FORTUNES FOR LANDOWNERS IN DISPUTES OVER ACCESS

1. Forest of Bowland, Lancashire
Landowner: Duke of Westminster
Dispute: Duke refuses access to fells and moors of 19,500-acre Abbeystead estate, other than access strips.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross moorland, forests and farmland not affected.

2. Brontë moors, Lancashire and Yorkshire
Landowners: various, including Lord Savile, the Moores family, Yorkshire Water
Dispute: almost all Wuthering Heights country, apart from few paths and small area of moorland, out of bounds to walkers.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross moorland.

3. Peak District National Park
Landowner: Yorkshire Water
Dispute: on privatisation in 1989, company fenced off 100,000 acres for grouse shooting and declared it out of bounds to public.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross moorland and mountains.

4. Berwyn Mountains, N Wales
Landowner: Countryside Council for Wales
Dispute: walkers denied free access to 9,000 acres of upland moor for conservation and agricultural reasons, although campaigners complain much of it uncultivated land with no good reason to exclude ramblers. One right of way.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross mountains.



5. Broughton estates, Northamptonshire
Landowner: Duke of Buccleuch
Dispute: ramblers complain wheat grown on bridleway. Duke allows access to Scottish estates.
Outcome: farmland not covered; blocking paths already not allowed.

6. Gillingham, Suffolk
Landowner: John Goodenham, farmer
Dispute: Mr Goodenham fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £3,500 for "blatantly flouting" rights of way. Has blocked public path with manure heap.
Outcome: farmland not covered; blocking paths already not allowed.

7. Sharnham and Pyton Hills, Oxfordshire
Landowner: Earl of Macclesfield
Dispute: ramblers not allowed to stray from public footpath crossing spectacular countryside. Earl says they scare wildlife because "they can't keep their mouths shut" and complain of litter.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross downland.

8. Rammore Common, Dorset, Surrey
Landowner: Adrian White, BBC Governor
Dispute: Mr White went to High Court to win right to fence off "common land". Eight public footpaths blocked off.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross common land, but 70-year-old property agreement may make this special case.

9. Walsfield, E Sussex
Landowner: Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, property tycoon
Dispute: Mr Van Hoogstraten has erected a fence, with signs warning trespassers to keep out, astride public right of way across Hamilton Palace grounds.
Outcome: blocking paths already not allowed.

Doctor, doctor, waiting for treatment is no joke.

Don't worry, with Abbey National's Private Healthcare if you fall ill you won't have to queue for treatment.

Being ill isn't funny. Neither is having to wait several months for treatment.

By taking out our private healthcare now you will avoid such a wait should you fall ill in future. And less waiting means less of the pain that can seriously affect your daily life.

Surely it's a complicated process? Hardly. Our claims helpline can give the go ahead on most claims in just 15 minutes.

But isn't private healthcare a luxury? We don't think so. In fact, you can discover how affordable your premium is by calling us free on the number below Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm, Saturday 8am to 4pm. Or ask at any of our larger branches and talk to one of our advisers face-to-face.

0800 222 399

Private Healthcare



ABBEY NATIONAL

Because life's complicated enough.

To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Details of the policy terms, conditions, restrictions and exclusions are available on request. Abbey National Healthcare, the Umbrella Couple symbol and Because life's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Registered Office, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XU, United Kingdom. All policies are underwritten by Abbey National Healthcare Limited.

you'll find some monster savings on books at amazon.co.uk



- The greatest range of savings. Every day, a selection of thousands of popular titles at saving up to 90%.
- The easiest way to find and buy books. Find the book you want on screen by author, title or subject. Then order and receive it by post or by email.
- The widest possible selection. With over 10 million titles, we're the biggest online bookseller in the world. And we're growing all the time.

click with
amazon.co.uk
books for everyone

MOTHER DAY
SUNDAY MARKET

0800 23

حکما من الذہل

Surgeons condemn selling of implants

By Nigel Hawkes and Helen Rumbelow

A SURGEON yesterday complained that Trilucent, the banned breast implant, had been put on the market in "an unseemly rush".

Norman Waterhouse, a consultant plastic surgeon at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London, has removed four Trilucent implants from women who had problems and refuses to use them.

"One of the things that decided me against them is that we had a sample Trilucent implant from the company and it had gone rotten," he said. "After two years it smells like a chip fryer and the surface is shrivelled and wrinkled. That is after being in my drawer, let alone in a woman's chest."

Mr Waterhouse and Simon Kay, a consultant plastic surgeon at St James's University Hospital in Leeds, criticised the way Trilucent had been marketed. Mr Kay said that aggressive marketing was responsible for their use in most of the 5,000 British women who had them. "What upset me was the marketing tactics, using local radio to market Trilucent directly," Mr Kay said. "Women came in asking for it by name instead of taking the doctor's advice on what they recommended."

Derek Mercer, a consultant plastic surgeon at St Thomas'



Trilucent smelt like a chip fryer, one surgeon said.

Hospital, London, said he thought there was little for women with the implants to worry about. "If they are symptom-free, that's fine. They can go to see their surgeon and get rid of them if they are worried. If I saw a patient who had these implants put in... I would offer to remove them from her if she was worried; that's entirely reasonable."

Trilucent breast implants cost £390 each and a breast augmentation operation costs between £2,500 and £4,000. Removing the implants would cost roughly the same, assuming they were to be replaced with an alternative.

Trilucent was developed at Washington University, St Louis, when fears about silicone implants began but it is now far less popular in Britain than the type it was meant to replace. About a tenth of the implants were fitted by Transform Medical Group, which

has 17 clinics. "Last year we did 1,700 breast implants and only 30 were Trilucent," Lindsay Bishop, of Transform, said.

Silicone has been given a new lease of life in Britain by a report published last year by the Health Department, the third such report, which said that the health fears had been exaggerated. For women still chary of silicone, implants made from a salt and sugar solution are favoured.

By 5pm yesterday Transform's helpline had received 65 calls, and the clinics had also answered calls from worried women. "If any want to

see their surgeon they are being booked in immediately," Ms Bishop said. "But so far none has said that she wants the implant removed."

Mr Waterhouse believes that the side effects of Trilucent are only beginning to be realised. "More than 30 cases of problems is quite a lot out of 5,000 women who have them. It is very early days," he said. "What concerns me is the general perception that silicone is bad and everything else is great. This is played on by a lot of advertising. Women come in and say, 'My implants are so safe I could take them out and eat them.' This is a very frivolous way to talk about medical devices."

Collagen Aesthetics, which was the distributor of the implants, said: "Clinical data shows that Trilucent has a very good safety profile and patient records and follow-ups to date confirm overall patient satisfaction." The company said that 11,000 women in Europe had the implants.

Dr Stuttard, page 16



Elaine Coomber, who regretted the day she had surgery

'Safe alternative' left woman with 4 years of pain

By Helen Rumbelow

A WOMAN who had her silicone breast implants replaced with Trilucent, believing it to be the safe alternative, has experienced four years of crippling pain.

Elaine Coomber, 53, had small silicone implants inserted when she was 29 in order to give her breasts some uplift and to look better in clothes. By her late forties they had ruptured, leaving her in great pain and with several health complications as a result.

Mrs Coomber, of Hextable, Kent, regretted the day she had breast surgery, but because the operation to remove the silicone would also remove most of her remaining breast tissue, she was advised to have another pair of implants.

Reluctantly she decided to undergo the operation but she was determined to be given the safest material on the market. She wanted to avoid the troubles she had in the past and to minimise the risk of breast cancer now that she was getting older. At the

Transform Medical Group they told her that Trilucent was ideal, she said. "They said there was an identification disc in every implant so it could be tracked, and also that it wouldn't obscure X-rays so it allowed earlier tumour detection."

After preparing for the ordeal of the operation, which cost her £4,000 in 1995, she expected soreness for the first few months. However, the tenderness deteriorated into severe pain, and during the past four years her breasts have become red and inflamed.

"These implants have not reacted well with my body, but that's my individual case and I'd be very dismayed if women panicked and thought all of them were dangerous," Mrs Coomber said.

"However, my advice to anyone considering having implants would be 'don't'. Surely Trilucent is good enough warning. They said it was safe and now they say it could be a problem. But it's too late once you've had it done."

Gay doctor 'was forced to quit brain unit'

By Russell Jenkins, North West Correspondent

A MAN was forced out of his senior post at a brain injury unit because he was homosexual, an employment tribunal was told yesterday.

Nicholas Priestley, a neuro-psychologist, is claiming constructive dismissal from his post as clinical director of Highbank Brain Injury Unit, a private clinic in Bury, near Manchester, on the grounds of harassment due to his sexuality. He says that over the three years that he worked there, he was put under huge pressure to conceal his sexuality and was excluded from social activities based at the hospital.

Laura Cox, QC, counsel for Dr Priestley, told the three-man panel in Manchester that his client had experienced increasing hostility from senior management. She said that management had undermined his authority by withdrawing his secretarial staff

without reason. He had also spoken up for two homosexual members of staff at a meeting and later found that his conduct was investigated.

Dr Priestley had a heart attack and while he was recovering there was a restructuring of management at the unit that left his position diminished, amounting to a breach of his contract.

Mrs Cox is expected to argue at the hearing that the treatment meted out to Dr Priestley, 45, contrasted markedly with that given to a lesbian employee, allegedly treated "much more favourably".

The case was adjourned until today to let the panel read the extensive documentation. The unit's owners, Westminster Health Care, will contest the claims.

It is seen by homosexual rights activists as an important test case.

CLARE HAS MARSHALL BUT THINKS SHE WANTS HENRY
MARSHALL HAS CLARE AND ALSO HAS LAURA
HENRY'S HAD HEATHER AND ALMOST HAD CLARE
GINA'S GOT MARCO BUT SHE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR
GOT IT?

wonderful
YOU

*A new drama about love, affairs and commitment

Soundtrack available from 29th March

tv gets better **itv**

MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY MARCH 14TH

Five days to go. Five short, indecision-ravaged days. Why suffer? Put yourself out of your misery with a call to Drinks Direct. We'll have a bottle of Mercier non-vintage champers heading mum-wards, gift-wrapped with your personal message, perfectly timed to arrive on M-day. As long as you ring us by Thursday evening, that is...



0800 23 22 21

www.drinks-direct.co.uk

Mowlam gives nurses a tonic

The Minister prescribed popular remedies when she attended their congress, reports Ian Murray

THE only Cabinet minister who could be guaranteed to bring nurses cheering and clapping to their feet dropped in on their annual congress yesterday. Mo Mowlam's appearance was announced at the last moment and she turned in a virtuoso performance that left the 2,500 delegates happy about new Labour.

The Northern Ireland Secretary flew by helicopter to Harrogate from Dublin, where only two hours earlier she had been signing treaties to bring peace nearer.

For security reasons, her visit, planned at the Labour Party conference last September, was such a well-kept secret that the Royal College of Nursing congress discovered the identity of the "senior government minister" who was to address them only seconds before she appeared.

Delegates filing into the hall, who had been grumbling about pay and conditions and threatening to boo the Government's speaker, audibly sucked in their breath in amazement and jumped to their feet in delight as the Minister arrived theatrically on stage. The congress, which last year jeered Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, gave her a standing ovation.

"It's an honour to be here," Dr Mowlam said. "Nurses are people who work at the hard face year in and year out. It's crucial we acknowledge you."

She asked nurses from Northern Ireland to raise their hands so that they could be cheered. "What they do is what everybody else here does, with the additional problem they can be faced with a tragedy in an inhuman and barbaric form," she said.

Having flattered everyone, it was easy for her to broach the subject that led to Mr Dobson being booed a year earlier: pay. Despite this year's 12 per cent rise for newly qualified nurses and the above-inflation rise of 4.7 per cent for all other

grades, most nurses are dissatisfied with the new pay levels.

The increases mean that a staff nurse with five years or more experience will receive only £15 a week more, less tax, than the junior nurse she is required to teach. Government recruitment programmes have yet to overcome this disincentive to rejoin the NHS. The college says it has evidence that hospitals are even saving money on the newly qualified nurses by recruiting nursing auxiliaries instead.

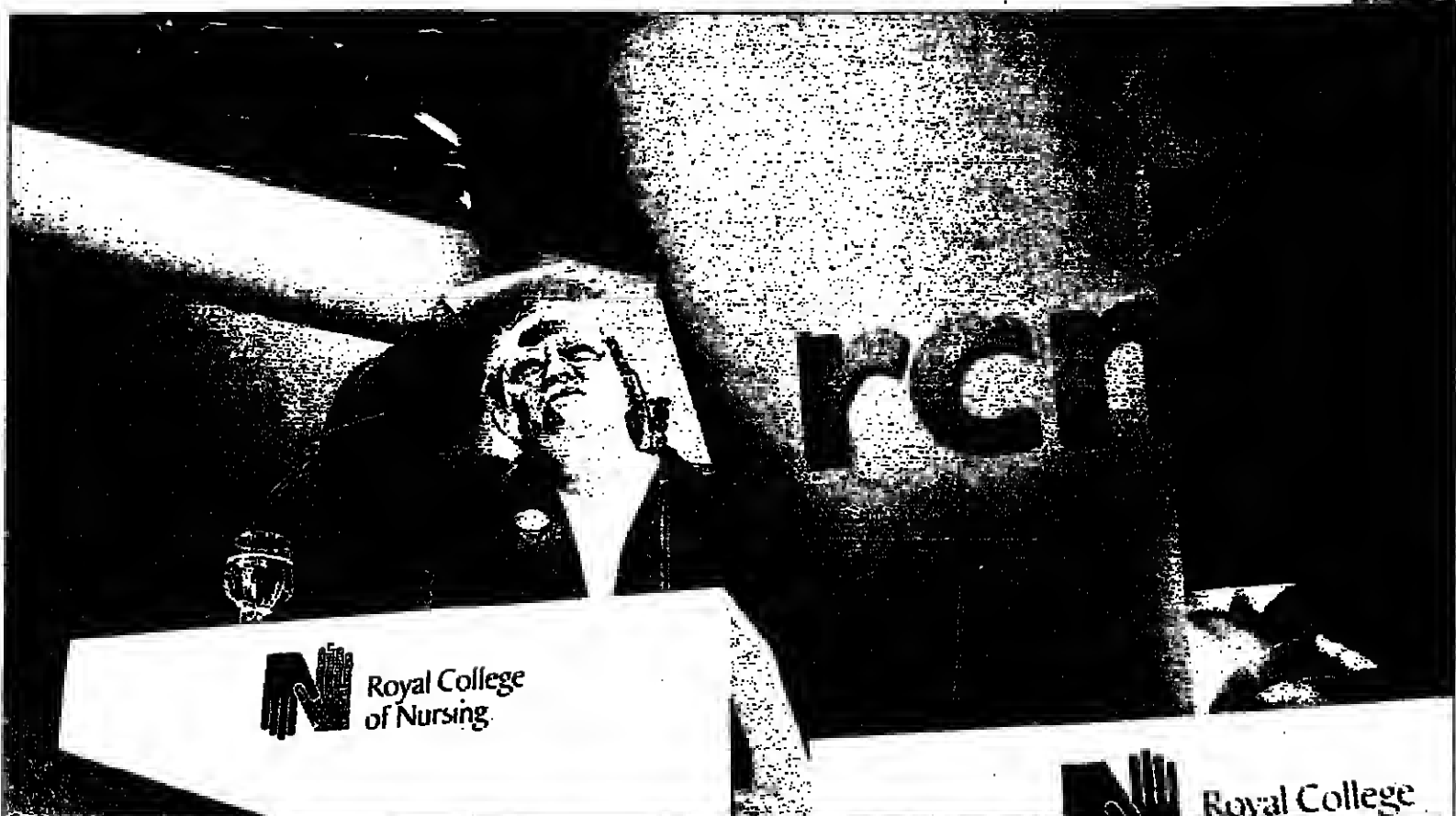
Dr Mowlam tackled the pay problem head on and probably not in a way that would be approved by Gordon Brown or Mr Dobson ("We call him 'Dobbo' in the Cabinet," she confided). "I get very frustrated when people say that we talk about modernising the health service and improving the pay of nurses and they tell us we can't do both. Paying nurses is an investment in patient care in a way that most other things isn't."

MISSING MAN

Frank Dobson's office refused to say where he was yesterday. The Health Secretary said that Mo Mowlam was responsible for health in Northern Ireland and had addressed the congress "with my full, enthusiastic support".

through the audience's laughter. The fact that the Government had accepted the independent pay review in full proved that it was serious about helping them, she said. She listed other promises, including an end to short-term contracts, a clampdown on violence in hospitals, more prescribing powers for nurses and family-friendly working conditions.

The Minister's security staff whisked her away while delegates were still on their feet applauding. Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said afterwards: "Mo Mowlam did a great job in making people feel better about themselves and about nursing. There are shortages and pressures and people are feeling down. But Mo Mowlam has made us all feel good today."



Dr Mowlam at the Harrogate conference yesterday. She asked nurses from Northern Ireland to raise their hands so that they could be cheered



New and old designs on show at Harrogate yesterday

Safety first in revamp of a starchy image

By Ian Murray

BELTS, buckles and hats are out: pleated skirts, culottes and polo shirts are in, according to new guidelines for nurses' uniforms launched by the Royal College of Nursing yesterday.

Traditional uniforms restricted movements, nurses said, and made it difficult to handle patients. This increased the risk of twisting or dropping them.

The Royal College of Nursing's ideal uniforms, largely developed by students who do not want to spend their working lives in the old-style garments, are designed for easy movement.

Dresses have pleats and shoulder vents; modern fabrics that can stretch are preferred to cottons and linens, although Lycra is not suitable because it cannot be washed at

high enough temperatures to kill infections.

While allowing unrestricted movement, the clothes are still designed to project a professional image, the RCN said. This is proving one of the more difficult areas to reach agreement on because hospitals aim to promote a corporate identity while the nurses' highest priority is a uniform that helps the public to recognise and trust them. Some patients are intimidated by any uniform, feeling it represents unwelcome authority.

Each hospital decides the uniform that its staff will wear and most nowadays accept casual, often brightly coloured, clothing as both more comfortable and practical than the traditional starched and bonneted-style that is still to be found in smaller hospitals, especially

in the private sector. The new guidelines make it clear that low necklines and short skirts are inappropriate. Clothes have to be cut so that it is possible for nurses "to adopt any posture, such as bending or reaching, without compromising their dignity or causing offence to the patient".

Shoes should be non-slip and provide support. Sandals and clogs are frowned upon. No jewellery should be worn and the best way of giving the uniform a corporate identity is to have badges embroidered on them.

The RCN began campaigning for more comfortable clothing at its congress a year ago. Members hope the designs they have developed will convince the small number of hospitals still using traditional uniforms to come up to date.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother's fire rescue praised

A mother was praised by fire officers yesterday after she saved her seven children from a house fire by dropping them from a first-floor window into the arms of neighbours.

Firemen said that Joanne Winterbottom, 28, did the right thing when she woke to discover that her semi-detached home in New Mosson, Manchester, was ablaze. She threw out a mattress to prevent injury to the children, aged from six weeks to nine years. They suffered slight injuries from smoke inhalation but were otherwise unharmed.

Tube strike off

The RMT union decided against holding a strike on London Underground next week. The union, which opposes privatising the network, is to ballot its 7,000 Tube members before deciding on other industrial action.

Stabbing death

A 25-year-old psychiatric patient who disappeared while on day release from a mental health unit in Isleworth, north-west London, was being questioned after a man aged 50 was stabbed to death and a woman was attacked.

Royal choice

Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones are to be married by the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Rev Peter Nott, Buckingham Palace said. The wedding, at St George's Chapel, Windsor, on Saturday, June 19, will take place at 5pm.

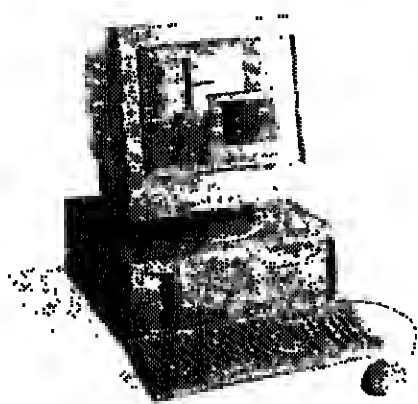
E coli patients

Eleven people are still in hospital after the outbreak of *E. coli* poisoning in west Cumbria. Three children are undergoing kidney treatment at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle. All patients are in a stable condition.

Saved by mud

Ray Carter, from Dartmouth, Devon, escaped with bruises after being run over by his two-ton dumper truck. Its front wheels pushed his chest and shoulders into the soggy soil after he was catapulted from the driver's seat.

More oomph



Take the Compaq Deskpro EP 6450+ with the powerful new Intel® Pentium® III processor.

Add the Compaq S700 17" colour monitor.

Attach a special price tag of just £1195, or £1404.13 with VAT (until March 31st 1999).

And, quite simply, you get a PC that's incredibly fast and completely reliable - at a superb price.

(You're also getting it from the world's number one PC manufacturer.)

To take advantage of our offer, call us now.

0845 270 4270

(Please quote 99EP48)

COMPAQ

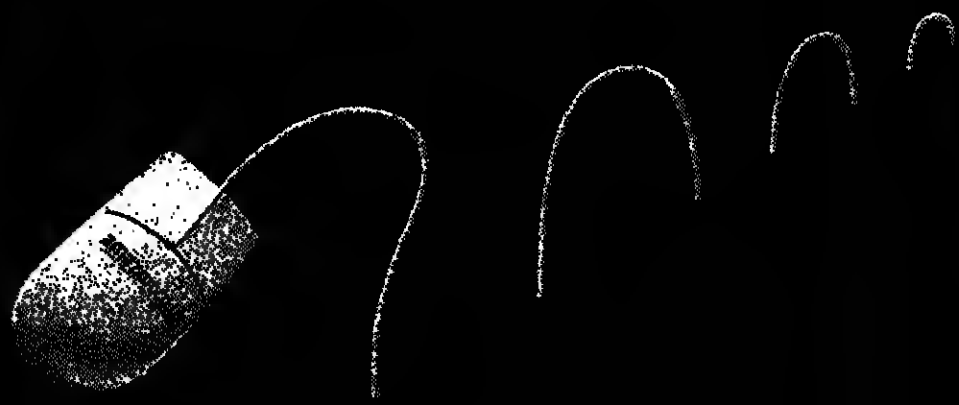
Better answers.

www.compaq.co.uk

Compaq Deskpro EP Desktop 6450+ with Intel® Pentium® III processor 450MHz, 64 MB SDRAM, Windows® 95 preinstalled plus S700 17" monitor for £1195 (£1404.13 with VAT).



you'll find some monster savings on books at amazon.co.uk



- The greatest range of savings. Everyday discounts on a selection of books, add up to 40% off.
- The easiest way to find and buy books. Find the book you want to buy, click on it, then click on the book. Then click on the book. Then click on the book.
- The widest possible selection. More than a million books, every day, in print and on the web. Hundreds of thousands more, in print and on the web.

Experience all this and more on the Internet at amazon.co.uk

click with **amazon.co.uk** books for everyone

هكذا من الذهل

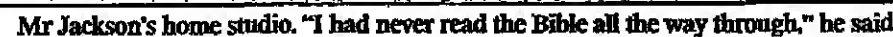
The fight goes on for rare Pennine view

Mr Jackson has had plenty



Mr Jackson works from a studio in his home, an imaginatively converted village hall

day handwriting is "beautiful but illegible", according to his wife, Mabel. This, however, is one criticism that fails to perturb him. "Handwriting is to calligraphy what singing in the bath is to appearing solo at Covent Garden," he said.



the hot sand at an oblique angle allowing the sand to enter the barrel. Remove after 15-20 seconds.

While the quill is in soft, make two incisions cut to form a sharp point. Cut the tip to the desired angle and cut a slit on from the nib.

When the quill is cooled it will be as hard as a normal and ready to use. Dry quill into suitable ink. The nibs and barrels made from caribou quill are strong and comes in' hand easy to be held with water.

It is important to make and hold as close to the nib as possible.

— Jim Hays

KEEPING PRICES ON LOW. **British Gas**
Home Energy

Greer joins protest at British Library

Party for new book cancelled to support strikers, reports Alex O'Connell

GERMAINE GREER chose solidarity over sales last night when she supported striking workers at the British Library by cancelling the party to be held there to launch her latest book, *The Whole Woman*.

The decision by Professor Greer, who has been a reader at the library since 1964, cheered more than 100 library assistants who picketed the new building at St Pancras, Central London, in protest at health and safety conditions in the basements. The library is likely to be closed for a week unless agreement is reached.

In a statement last night Professor Greer said: "Authors and publishers alike rely upon the services of library staff for research and editorial purposes or for protection of authors' and publishers' rights. Mismanagement at the British Library affects everyone involved in the trade of letters."

"When staff are overworked, the systems in place are inappropriate and morale is low, the necessary collaboration between readers and library workers is compromised and distorted. The British Library is the most important collection of books in the world: it is time the British Library management proved itself worthy to be in charge of it."

said it was "greatly disappointed" that the party would not be going ahead. A spokeswoman added: "We feel it would be unfair to ask our guests to cross the picket line. Germaine Greer herself has long links with the library."

The Public and Commercial Services union said that the picketers had had no intention of breaking up the celebrations, but that they were glad of Professor Greer's support. A spokesman said: "We hope this will help us get back to the negotiating table and persuade management to help us find a way forward."

The architect of the library said yesterday that he was "baffled" by the dispute over

working conditions in the building's storerooms four floors below ground level, which forced the closure of the reading rooms yesterday.

Professor Sir Colin St John Wilson stood by his designs. "It sounds to me like a labour relations exercise rather than anything to do with the fabric of the building," he said. "I've had members of staff say to me that they could not wait to get in there."

According to Sir Colin, when the plans were being prepared the layout was fully discussed with staff representatives and there was, he said, no disagreement whatsoever. "There was provision made for a restaurant above ground

so that the periods below ground would be broken up. The heating and lighting should be good down there, unless the system isn't being monitored by the staff."

"There was a huge document there for consultation. If people disagreed with elements of the design, a completely restructured version would be made, costed and agreed."

The only difference between the British Library's basements and most other offices was lack of view, he said. "But there is now a lot of deep office space where you can be on the 18th floor of a building and you still don't get a view out, especially in the City."

"I would say that if you worked in the British Library you are probably much better off than those working in 'deep office space'."

Sir Colin also said that he would be surprised and saddened if any serious argument was being made about the design. He knew nothing of a health and safety report mentioned by one worker that reportedly found 37 areas for improvement. He said: "Absolutely nothing has been passed on to me. I just know that the conditions are of a different class from what they were in the British Museum."



Sir Colin St John Wilson, the architect, baffled at the protest



Pickets outside the British Library yesterday, protesting over health and safety conditions in the new building

Dark days are just not natural

By Alex O'Connell

MOST of us need full spectrum light, which can only be gained from natural light, to stay psychologically healthy.

According to Cary Cooper, Professor at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Psychology, illnesses such as seasonal affective disorder are most likely to hit those who work in conditions without access to natural

light. "Light deficiency will affect people's moods and there is likely to be less interaction between colleagues when they work underground," Professor Cooper said.

"Sometimes working underground can create a camaraderie between colleagues but it is usually only short term, like during wartime."

Professor Cooper admitted that in some instances it could be the culture of the organisation

that was as much at fault as the physical working conditions. But he said that lack of light often aggravated the situation.

It is a problem for those in a variety of sectors. The work of "buffers", the night-workers who scoured the London Underground for passengers' hair, is these days done by cleaning-trains, but drivers, mechanics and station assistants still spend up to eight hours at a time underground. Although meal breaks allow staff to rise to the surface, London Underground said that a lot of the staff chose to eat in cavernous staffrooms.

A rather more glamorous setting than a Tube station, the Arches nightclub in Glasgow, is located in the railway arches below Central Station. Staff say that they sometimes work for 48 hours without catching a ray of natural light.

"I try to make a concerted effort to get out to eat, but sometimes I get into work at 6pm and stay here until 6am, go home and sleep and get up after dark," Tiernan Kelly, projects officer, said. "In the winter months we get tired but after a while you don't notice it."

London's sewerage network, mainly built in Victorian times, is maintained and repaired by 49 "flushers". The drainage tunnels' brickwork and blockages are checked by



Mining: 48-hour week without natural light

workers wading waist-high. The worst side of the job, according to Thames Water, is chiselling out solidified cooking fat, particularly prevalent under Leicester Square. Flushers, who work in teams for safety reasons, earn about £16,000 a year and work from 7.30am until 3.40pm.

Today there are just 17 working mines in England and Wales. Miners are allowed to work 48 hours a week underground; manual workers can stay down no longer than eight hours on a night shift. Those figures include showering time and time taken to travel to the pit.

Although conditions have improved, miners still get illnesses such as miners' lung. Temperatures can be painfully high.

CORRECTIONS

A Home Office study on homicide rates, reported on August 9, 1998, wrongly suggested that Geneva was especially unsafe. In fact it is among the safest of the world's cities, with a homicide rate between 1995 and 1997 of 1.23 per 100,000 population.

□ Josef Mengele did not make postwar visits to Europe on a Red Cross passport (report, February 17). Mengele, using a false name and identity card, tricked the International Committee of the Red Cross into issuing a travel document for one journey only.

Sierra Leone



Thousands of children have been directly affected by the conflict in Sierra Leone.

Homes, hospitals, and clinics have been looted or burned down. Overcrowding means that the risk of disease and epidemics increases daily. Basic medical kits and vaccinations need to be distributed immediately.

Despite the current security situation, Children's Aid Direct are continuing to work alongside local health teams to assess immediate priorities and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children. We have been working in Sierra Leone since 1996. Your support is vital if we are to get essential supplies - antibiotics, vaccines, anti-malarial tablets - to emergency clinics now.

£40 can provide an emergency medical kit to protect 2,000 children for 3 months.

To help the children of Sierra Leone, phone our Immediate Action Line now on 08701 20 30 40

Or there is my gift of: £20 £40 £100 £250* Your amount £
*A donation of £100 or more qualifies for the Millennium Gift Aid Scheme, increasing your gift by almost a third.

Please make your cheque payable to Children's Aid Direct OR Please debit £ from my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Switch

CARD NUMBER

Last three digits of Switch card no. Switch issue no.

EXPIRY DATE / SIGNATURE

NAME (CAPS) MR/MRS/MIS

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

please send to: Children's Aid Direct Dept No. 539 FREEPOST, Reading RG30 1ZY



New Range of Laptop PCs

AVAILABLE NOW AT PC WORLD



TOSHIBA 300MHz AMD K6-2 Processor

- 32Mb RAM
- 4.0Gb Hard Disk
- 512k Cache Memory
- 13" LCD Colour Display
- 24x CD-ROM
- 56k v.90 Modem
- Windows 98, MS Works 97
- MODEL: Satellite 2520 CDS

PC WORLD PRICE

INC VAT **£1199**

OR

TOSHIBA 300MHz AMD K6-2 Processor

- 64Mb RAM
- 4.0Gb Hard Disk
- 512k Cache Memory
- 12.1" TFT Colour Display
- 24x CD-ROM
- 56k v.90 Modem
- Windows 98
- MS Works 97
- MODEL: Satellite 2520 CDT

PC WORLD PRICE

INC VAT **£1499**

OR £249.99 per month

56k v.90 MODEM

64Mb RAM

24x CD-ROM



PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

COMPAQ 333MHz AMD K6-2 Processor

NEW FROM COMPAQ

333MHz PROCESSOR

- 32Mb SDRAM, 3.2Gb Hard Disk, 512k L2 Cache Memory, 12.1" TFT Colour Display, 24x CD-ROM, 56k Modem, Windows 98, 2Mb Integrated Video Memory, MODEL: Presario 1255

PC WORLD PRICE

INC VAT **£1299**

OR £249.99 per month

SONY 266MHz Intel Pentium Processor with MMX Technology

SAVE £400

ULTRA LIGHT UNDER 1.5Kg

- 32Mb SDRAM, 4.3Gb Hard Disk, 256k Cache Memory, 10.4" TFT Colour Display, Windows 98, 259 x 208 x 23.9mm, MODEL: PCP-505 LITE

PC WORLD PRICE

INC VAT **£1499**

OR £249.99 per month

IBM 300MHz Intel Pentium Processor with MMX Technology

NEW FROM IBM

13.3" TFT COLOUR DISPLAY

- 64Mb SDRAM, 4.3Gb Hard Disk, 512k L2 Cache Memory, 24x CD-ROM, 56k v.90 Modem, Windows 98, Rechargeable Ni-MH Battery Pack, MODEL: 1458

PC WORLD PRICE

INC VAT **£1699**

OR £249.99 per month

for free unlimited internet access Pick up a free disc in-store today!

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464 OR SHOP ON-LINE FOR SOFTWARE AT www.pcworld.co.uk

We won't be beaten on price

This promise that if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local retail store within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer.

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

*On all PCs and printers over £250. Credit Protection Insurance (CPI) is optional and will protect your payments in case of accident, unemployment or illness. CPI is not included in the monthly repayments unless otherwise stated. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: (Without CPI) Cash Price £699. No Deposit and 48 monthly payments of £20.66 - total amount payable £991.68. Minimum purchase £250. Subject to status. Written quotations available from: Dept MK/PCW, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7TG. The Intel Inside logo, Pentium, Celeron and MMX are Registered Trademarks of the Intel Corporation.

APR 19.9%

Child criminals as young as 10 may be tagged

CHILD offenders as young as ten could be electronically tagged under proposals by the Youth Justice Board to deal with the rising number of young criminals.

Latest estimates presented to Jack Straw show that the number of youngsters aged between ten and 17 held in secure accommodation is forecast to rise from 2,711 last year to 4,275 by 2002-2003, according to a report yesterday.

The board also recommends that young male and female offenders should share the same secure accommodation as long as staffing levels are high and the females are not in a small minority. The board, chaired by Lord Warner, formerly policy adviser to Mr Straw, recommends that tagging could be used for offenders as young as ten to reduce pressure on secure accommodation. Youngsters would be released into the community subject to a curfew monitored by the tags. Juvenile offenders would be released early on a tagging

Straw urged to extend electronic curfew to deal with increase in offenders, writes Richard Ford

scheme as a reward for good behaviour, the Board's first report to the Home Secretary said.

Lord Warner said: "Tagging is much more well developed than it was five years ago and it is seen much more as a viable option available to the courts. It is possible to link tagging with human supervision and it is a way of avoiding incarceration."

The report also suggests extending to juvenile offenders the home detention curfew under which inmates serving short sentences leave prison

early. It sets out a blueprint for a complete overhaul of juvenile jails in which there would be a mixture of units provided by the Prison Service, private security firms, and venture capitalists such as Prime Life who are apparently planning to build five secure units each holding 48 youngsters.

But the board's ambitious plans for child jails holding a total of 100 youngsters in living units of a maximum of eight each contrast sharply with Prison Service plans.

Lord Warner's paper is critical of the service's plans to keep up to 400 youngsters in single establishments and said it doubted they could be successful in helping to prevent re-offending. The Prison Service is planning to develop a separate juvenile prison estate out of the existing young offender institutions.

The report gives no details about costings or whether the Treasury would meet a bill running into hundreds of millions of pounds. However, it publishes figures showing that the privately run Midway Secure training centre which houses 40 teenage offenders in small units costs £2,400 per inmate per week compared with £340 a week in a Prison Service establishment.

Last night penal reform groups gave warning of the difficulties of tagging children as young as ten and of holding male and female teenage offenders together.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "Tagging ten year olds is unlikely to work because their behaviour is a consequence of ill-disciplined parents and it will be the parents who will have to impose discipline to police the tag."

He said he hoped that sex education as well as dealing with offending behaviour would be on the curriculum in units holding male and female teenage offenders.

The Prison Service last night dismissed Lord Warner's proposals as "aspirations".



George Robertson: said improving the capability of European forces was a primary concern, though there would also have to be structural changes

Robertson comes to defence of Europe

Peter Riddell on the minister deploying all his skills to work out the future of 'credible European armed forces'

WHENEVER the subject of European defence is raised, alarm bells start ringing in Washington and among sceptics. Is Nato being undermined? Are national identities to be submerged in a European Army? Will British troops be sent into action on the orders of foreigners? Definitely not says George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who is trying to put substance behind the idea.

He notes that it was Michael Portillo, his Tory predecessor, who helped to launch the European Security and Defence Identity at a summit in Berlin in 1995. Discussions will intensify this year, starting in London this week and at the Nato summit in Washington next month.

Mr Robertson himself has unquestioned Atlanticist and European credentials — fighting unilateralism in the early 1980s and taking over as Labour's European spokesman in 1984 when the party was still committed to withdrawal.

Nonetheless, he admits that the Franco-British declaration at St Malo three months ago that Europe "must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible forces"

did generate fears in Washington about a separate European campaign was mounted to reassure the Americans that the aim was to back up Nato in situations where they might not wish to commit ground troops.

The Americans, Mr Robertson argues, "have wanted burden-sharing with the Europeans contributing more, but, at the same time, they have been worried that we Europeans are undermining our commitment to Nato." The US is "uncomfortable as the only superpower".

The latest initiative originates both in developments in the EU on foreign and security policy (notably the appointment this summer of a "high representative" responsible for foreign policy) and in the realisation that, in any military intervention on the ground in Kosovo, Europe would be on its own.

Mr Robertson's main priority is to improve capability. Relatively few of the 25 million forces in Europe can be deployed at short notice. Only a small number of the 7,000 combat aircraft are capable of precision bombing. Many of Europe's forces are still organised to fight the Warsaw Pact.

However, Mr Robertson believes big changes are under way among a new generation of defence ministers in France, Germany and Italy. The Bundeswehr has agreed to deploy 6,000 German troops to the Balkans rather than the 2,800 originally suggested. The French are moving to

view in Britain points the way with the expansion of heavy-lift capability, both with new aircraft and ships.

The aim is "to get to a crisis before it becomes a calamity". He is also keen to simplify existing multinational forces — such as the allied rapid reaction force under British command, British-Dutch amphibious forces, the Euro-Corps involving France, Germany and the Benelux countries, and the German-Danish-Polish group. Mr Robertson notes that 1,000 French troops have been in Macedonia as part of the "extraction force" (in case the monitors need to be evacuated from Kosovo in a hurry) and a French general has worked in the Nato command and control

structure. France is, he says, "coming back closer to Nato". Although capability comes first, structures will have to change: the EU, the Western

European Union and Nato have overlapping memberships. Various options exist, such as merging the EU and WEU (which would cause most alarm in Washington), reinforcing WEU to make it capable of military operations; or putting the political arm of WEU into the EU and leaving the military side under Nato under strengthened European capability.

The strengthening of European defence is also a way in which the Blair Government can demonstrate its broader commitment to the EU even though it is outside the single currency. Mr Robertson and Robin Cook are discussing the issues with Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' foreign and defence spokesman. The two parties largely agree on European security and the initiative is partly to show, in Mr Robertson's words, "how far the Tories have retreated from the Portillo position".

But as the close British-American co-operation over Iraq shows, the Blair Government is far from committing itself wholly to a European approach. The transatlantic balancing act will continue.

'The US is uncomfortable as the only superpower'

Jail fails to learn murder lessons

PRISON staff ignored alarm calls at a jail where four years ago a prisoner was beaten to death when warning lights went unanswered, a highly critical report says today.

Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, tested the cell call system at Chelmsford jail and found that no staff responded. In 1994, Christopher Edwards was bled to death in a cell he shared with Richard Linford, a paranoid schizophrenic. Edwards pressed the alarm but it failed to sound because a matchstick had jammed a button and a warning light went unheeded by prison staff.

In an unannounced inspection last October, Sir David tested the cell system on three separate occasions. "We found it was working but that staff failed to answer any of the cell calls we made. This was total-

ly unacceptable." Sir David says. "I am staggered that, in view of what has happened, and of which staff allegedly were ashamed, it should still be the case."

The prison, which holds about 460 inmates, was declared in need of special managerial attention after Sir David described it as "dreadful" in 1996. His latest report says that no member of staff nor anyone with responsibility for it in the Prison Service should feel proud. He intends to make an emergency reinspection within 12 months.

Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, said he was concerned about the failure. Strict instructions about responding had been issued and a new system was being installed to improve monitoring of calls and cut the risk of vandalism by prisoners.

PHONE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR EVEN LESS WITH ONE.TEL

FLAT RATE CALLS - 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK

One.Tel offers low cost international calls from your home or business phone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no pre-payment required and you don't even have to change telephone companies. Call us now to register on 0800 092 8988 between 7am-11pm, Mon. to Fri. or 8.30am-5.30pm Sat. and 9am-5pm Sun. Once you are registered simply dial 1878 from your touch tone phone in front of the national or international number you wish to call. It couldn't be easier.

6p
PER MINUTE TO THE USA

9p
PER MINUTE TO AUSTRALIA

9p
PER MINUTE TO GERMANY

4p
PER MINUTE IN THE UK

HOW TO DIAL 1878 'N' SAVE
- 00 - COUNTRY CODE - AREA CODE - LOCAL NUMBER

NO PRE-PAYMENT NO SWITCHING PHONE COMPANIES JUST DIAL 1878 FIRST

Not applicable to calls made to or from Mobile phones. All rates are correct at time of publication and can change at any time. All prices include VAT.

PHONE 0800 092 8988 One.Tel
or visit our website on www.onetel.co.uk 100% Telephone Co.

LOW INTERNATIONAL RATES

| Destination | FLAT RATE (per min) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Andorra..... | 20p |
| Austria..... | 12p |
| Bahamas..... | 19p |
| Belgium..... | 10p |
| Bermuda..... | 23p |
| Brazil..... | 27p |
| Canada..... | 9p |
| China..... | 37p |
| Colombia..... | 28p |
| Cyprus..... | 20p |
| Denmark..... | 9p |
| Egypt..... | 44p |
| Falkland Islands..... | 26p |
| Finland..... | 10p |
| France..... | 9p |
| Greece..... | 23p |
| Hong Kong..... | 15p |
| Hungary..... | 18p |
| India..... | 43p |
| Ireland..... | 9p |
| Israel..... | 15p |
| Italy..... | 14p |
| Jamaica..... | 41p |
| Japan..... | 15p |
| Kuwait..... | 59p |
| Luxembourg..... | 12p |
| Malaysia..... | 20p |
| Malta..... | 18p |
| Mexico..... | 24p |
| Morocco..... | 32p |
| Netherlands..... | 10p |
| New Zealand..... | 10p |
| Philippines..... | 28p |
| Poland..... | 23p |
| Portugal..... | 22p |
| Russia..... | 31p |
| Saudi Arabia..... | 52p |
| Singapore..... | 21p |
| South Africa..... | 30p |
| Spain..... | 14p |
| Sri Lanka..... | 56p |
| Sweden..... | 10p |
| Switzerland..... | 10p |
| Taiwan..... | 25p |
| Turkey..... | 28p |
| UAE..... | 39p |
| Venezuela..... | 27p |
| Vietnam..... | 70p |

Star Performer. Don't miss the Grand Finale.

17.2%
average returns since launch

For PEPs, the curtain comes down in April 1999. So if you want to take advantage of one of the best performers available, time's running out.

Our European PEP has outperformed 97% of the competition over the last

5 years. It invests in a trust that has been 'AAA' rated in 6 out of the 7 years*, and had it been available as a PEP when launched, would have produced returns of 17.2%* - free from UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

Whether you want to make a new investment, or transfer an existing PEP, make sure you don't miss the chance to enjoy our European PEP performance - while you still can.

For further details, return the coupon on
0345 6789 10

Quote reference no. 448BB4

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

www.scottishwidows.co.uk

2% discount on new lump sums and transfers before 5 April 1999.

Please return to: Scottish Widows, Direct Sales, PO Box 17036, FREEPOST SC03744, Edinburgh EH3 0BR.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone No. Work _____ Home _____ Date of Birth _____

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you more about our products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐ Reference No. 448BB5

*Source: Standard and Poor's Microcap 1100-140/88, lump sum offering, offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested, 535 funds to survey. **Source: Standard & Poor's Fund Research 1992-1998. *Based on £6,000 lump sum, 14.12% to 18.02%, offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested, assuming our European Trust had been available as a PEP. Over the five years to 1 October 1998, the source investment would have provided an average annual growth rate of 17.2%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. The value of the tax advantages of a PEP depends on personal circumstances. Where applicable we will recover any overseas tax wherever it is possible and practical to do so. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. The tax position of PEPs will change in April 1999. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored, issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSCS.

مكتبة النحل

War crimes threat for Milosevic

Blair singles out Yugoslav leader for trial if Kosovo atrocities are repeated, Michael Evans writes

TONY BLAIR gave a clear warning yesterday to President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, that if there are any more atrocities in Kosovo he will be held accountable for suspected war crimes.

The warning was the first time that a Western leader has deliberately singled out Mr Milosevic for possible war crimes charges if the Serb forces under his command committed further atrocities.

Unlike Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb President who was indicted — but not yet arrested — for war crimes committed during the conflict in Bosnia, Mr Milosevic has not been included on the wanted list of suspected war criminals.

However, Mr Blair said that in the crucial period leading up to renewed peace negotiations in France, "President Milosevic and his commanders must... understand that Nato will not stand by in the face of renewed repression in Kosovo or atrocities like the one we witnessed at Racak", where 45 ethnic Albanians were slaughtered. The Prime Minister added: "Nor can the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague."

After the Racak massacre, Belgrade refused to allow Louise Arbour, the chief investigator at the tribunal, to enter Kosovo to begin inquiries.

Mr Blair's spokesman said that the Prime Minister had deliberately named the Yugoslav leader in his reference to war crimes in Kosovo to put

maximum pressure on him to keep his forces under control. Although Mr Milosevic has voiced defiance over Nato's threats to launch airstrikes, any move to indict him as a war criminal could pose a big threat to his political future.

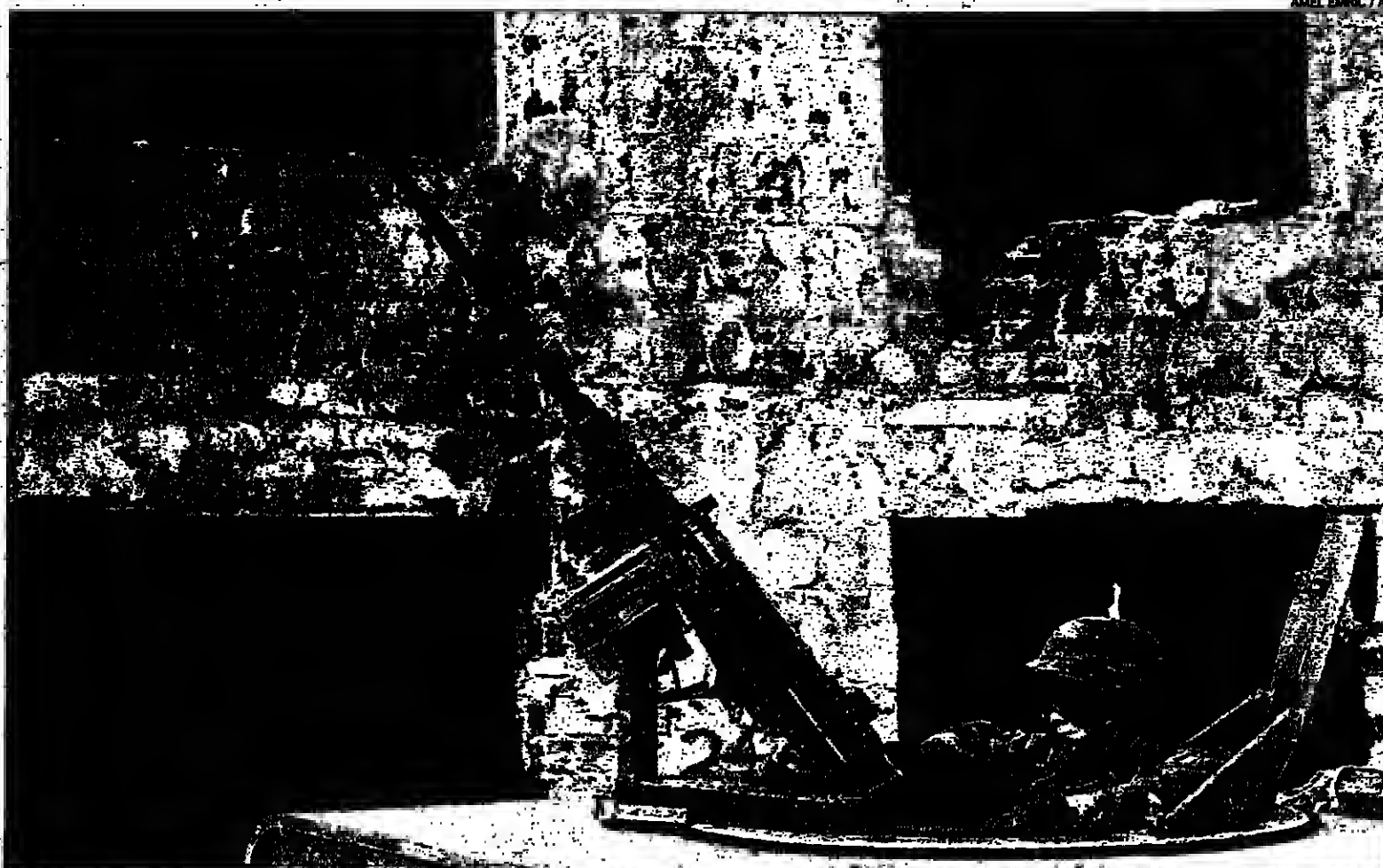
Speaking at a conference at the Royal United Services Institute in London to mark next month's 50th anniversary of Nato, Mr Blair said the alliance was determined not to repeat the early mistakes in Bosnia when the United Nations was carrying out humanitarian assistance, while the fighting was going on.

"In Kosovo... we will not allow war to devastate a part of our continent, bringing untold death, suffering and homelessness," he said. Nor would Nato accept "prevarication" at the peace talks which are set to begin next Monday at Evreux in Normandy. "No side can be allowed to obstruct the process," he said.

As he was speaking, Mr Milosevic issued a statement in Belgrade that he would never approve the deployment of any foreign troops in Kosovo to implement a peace deal.

However, Mr Blair said: "The Balkans are littered with agreements that are signed but not implemented. To make an agreement work, to bring stability in Kosovo, an international force is an indispensable element. Only Nato, is equipped to lead it."

Underlining the problems that still remain in Bosnia, the Bosnian Serb parliament yes-



A US soldier, serving with the Nato force in Bosnia, occupies the gunner's position while patrolling the disputed Bosnian Serb town of Brcko

terday called on the six-nation Contact Group to meet urgently to revise the decision on the future status of Brcko, the northern Bosnia town which, under international arbitration, is to become a neutral district, controlled by neither the Serbs nor the Muslim-Croat Federation. The parliament re-

jected the decision on Sunday. But Carlos Westendorp, the international peace co-ordinator said yesterday his decision on Friday to sack Nikola Poplasen, the hardline Bosnian Serb President, for obstructing the peace process was "final and irrevocable".

In his speech yesterday, Mr

Blair urged the Kosovo Liberation Army "to cease its operations and accept demilitarisation", and for the Serbs to reduce their forces to agreed levels and allow Nato-led troops to underpin the proposed autonomy arrangements for Kosovo.

At the same conference, Gen-

eral Klaus Naumann, chairman of Nato's Military Committee, said he was unhappy that some alliance leaders were giving Mr Milosevic "guarantees that certain things won't happen, so he can play chess with us". Although he did not name the leaders, it was assumed he was referring

to the French and Italians. General Naumann said it was vital to keep Mr Milosevic guessing about what Nato might do.

"Everyone should rest assured that anyone who dares to raise his weapons against Nato will not have a good time in the long run," he declared.

Pristina's nights of bloodletting cast shadow over peace prospects

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN PRISTINA

AFTER the sun has gone down over the clustered horizon of minarets, belching factory chimneys and tower blocks, the fear in Pristina is as tangible as the sulphur smog in the empty streets. If ever there seemed a city waiting for war, then this is it. By 8pm there is not a soul to be seen outside in the gloom ex-

cept for the silhouettes of gun-toting Serb police; by 10pm not a sound other than gun-bolts being worked beneath my window.

Killings within the city, as the stress of the conflict superimposes itself upon tearing gangland hierarchies, are becoming an almost regular occurrence. One southwestern Pristina suburb, Emshtiri, still remains sealed off by police in a follow-up operation after two of their

colleagues were killed in a gun battle on Sunday. "It is partly a war affair, partly a mafia affair," a police captain remarked glibly of his friends' death.

Elsewhere fierce clashes continue in both the south and north of the province. More refugees are on the move, and if tonight is a normal night there will be at least three fresh corpses, either Serb or Albanian, lying by roadsides at dawn. So

there is good reason for tension. And perhaps no reason so good as the apparent failure yesterday of Western diplomats to get an outright agreement from the Kosovo Liberation Army to back the Contact Group's peace plan to end the southern Serbian province's escalating bloodshed. As yet unplayed, Kosovo's worst-case scenario appears to be inching to the fore.

A planned meeting of the KLA

general headquarters on Sunday to discuss signing up to the plan, a gathering that was to include four of the deputation present in Rambouillet as well as the seven zone commanders, did not take place amid reports of divisions within the movement.

Insiders reported three particular sticking-points blocking acceptance: the proposed presence of Russian troops attached to a Nato

deployment in Kosovo to mollify the Serbs; the disarming and disbandment of the KLA; and lastly, inevitably, the West's half-way offer of autonomy.

"Things have not looked promising for days now," said a diplomat in contact with those at the rendezvous. "It does not look like there will be any certain agreement. In fact, it looks like this will drag on indefinitely."

EU fails to win allies in banana conflict

By CHARLES BREMNER

EUROPE won little sympathy when it took its feud with Washington over bananas before the world's top trade body yesterday, claiming that US sanctions were a declaration of war against all its members.

Irritation over the conduct of the US and European Union was manifest at the World Trade Organisation meeting in Geneva, which was called by the EU to protest against punitive US sanctions that could cost more than £320 million in exports this year.

Envoys at the 132-nation grouping voiced dismay over the quarrel that many see as a threat to efforts to liberalise global trade.

Renato Ruggiero, the Director-General of the trade organisation, urged Washington and Brussels to settle the dispute themselves.

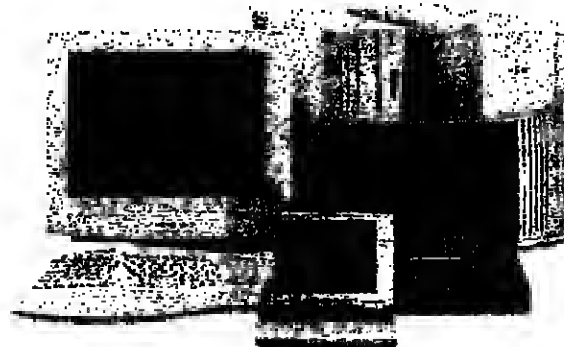
"We seek a solution to a problem firstly by mutual agreement and not by imposing rulings on either side," Signor Ruggiero said. "I invite again both parties to renew their efforts."

The EU had been hoping to win moral support from the trade organisation's council against what it sees as a flagrant breach of the group's rules. Roderick Abbott, the EU envoy to the WTO, said the Americans were "declaring war on... WTO members whose compliance it decides is inadequate".

The European case is that the Americans failed to wait for the outcome of separate trade organisation arbitration before imposing a 100 per cent levy on a wide list of imported goods, ranging from Scottish cashmere to Spanish leather.

Britain is the biggest target of the American decision to retaliate against EU rules that favour banana imports from the Caribbean and Africa over those from Latin America.

Libby Purves, page 22



When did you last

get the chance

to choose

exactly what

you wanted?

This is not an advertisement about what Fujitsu sell.

It's an advertisement about what people choose to buy. And why.

Because, in the last six months alone, people have chosen to buy seventy per cent more Fujitsu PCs, Notebooks and Servers than ever before. Making us one of Europe's fastest growing computer companies as well as the fourth largest IT company in the world.

It isn't an accident. Every year, we invest at least ten per cent of our revenue in research and development.

So there's a Fujitsu PC, Notebook and Server for every kind of use and for every kind of user.

All conceived, designed and built to work hard, and to run economically.

Which, experience seems to prove, is just exactly what people want.

FUJITSU

PCs • NOTEBOOKS • SERVERS

0345 023 985

www.fujitsu-computers.com

Iranian leader targets the Pope in European charm offensive



Khatami: capitalising on his image as a moderate

IN THE face of American dismay and protests from Iranian exiles, President Khatami will today become the first Iranian leader to travel to Europe since the Islamic revolution of 1979 when he makes an official visit to Rome and the Vatican.

He will meet the Pope on Thursday, and will follow the Rome visit with talks in Paris next month.

Khatami's attempt at dialogue angers US and exiles, Richard Owen writes in Rome

But Tehran clearly also hopes the trip will widen the gap between Europe and America on the branding of Iran as a pariah state, with European companies increasingly willing to defy the American-led embargo. Last week ENI of Italy and Elf Aquitaine of France signed a \$1 billion (£660 million) deal to develop the offshore Doroud oilfield in the Gulf, despite Washington's threat of

sanctions against any firm investing more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector. A State Department spokesman said Washington was "disappointed and concerned" by the oil deal. The Italian press quoted Kamal Kharrazi, the Foreign Minister, as saying he none the less hoped US oil companies would also return to invest in Iran, which has been hit by the worldwide fall in oil prices. Mr Kharrazi called on America to "face reality" and drop its embargo, imposed in 1995 because of Iran's alleged involvement in terrorism.

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, who visited Tehran a year ago, said he had been assured by President Khatami that Iran "does not support terrorism, either by states or by individual groups". Writing in *La Repubblica*, Signor Dini said the recent elections marked "a turning point in Iranian history".

Italian officials said Massimo D'Alema, the Prime Minister, and Signor Dini would press Mr Khatami "behind the scenes" over Iran's human rights record, and would raise "continuing Western concern" over the death threats against Salman Rushdie, the British writer. But Italian opposition MPs said

President Khatami was merely the "acceptable face" of an authoritarian regime. Police said they expected 4,000 Iranian exiles from opposition groups to protest against the visit on the streets of Rome today.

President Khatami will meet Signor D'Alema and President Scalfaro today before delivering a "message to Europe" in a lecture in Florence tomorrow.

While Britain has supported the American line, Italy and France have been in the forefront of links with Tehran, with Signor Dini going to Tehran last year barely a week after the EU had lifted its ban on ministerial visits to Iran. The ban was imposed in 1997 after a German court ruled that Tehran was behind

the murder of three Kurdish dissidents in Berlin in 1992.

Signor Dini said he had found Mr Khatami a "cultured man with a clear vision of the way forward, who seeks dialogue both with Europe and the US". He said Iran's arsenal was "not large enough to cause undue alarm".

□ **Nicosia:** Reformers allied to President Khatami yesterday celebrated the capture of all but two of 15 Tehran council seats in elections held last week. They were also victorious in most other cities. The final results, released yesterday, were further evidence that Iran's protracted power struggle is tilting firmly in favour of Mr Khatami (Michael Theodorou writes).

Russia is likely to win another IMF handout

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

DESPITE the continuing saga of the missing millions from Russia's Central Bank and the Government's abject failure to come up with a coherent economic programme, the International Monetary Fund is expected to pour more money into the country's devastated economy.

Western economists believe that a deal is likely to be completed when Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister and the man tipped to be the next President, visits Washington at the end of the month.

An IMF mission that is expected in Moscow this week to continue negotiations with the Government finds itself faced with a tough choice.

It could recommend that the next instalment of its \$17.6 billion (£10.8 billion) loan to Russia be paid. This would disregard allegations of large-scale theft by the Central Bank via Finaco, its offshore management company, and the devastating impact the last IMF stabilisation loan had in propelling up an unrenowned currency. The rouble collapsed on August 17 last year, leaving the Russian banks to rush their depositors' money offshore, never to be seen again.

Alternatively, the IMF could refuse to pump any more money into a country that in only six months has become an economic disaster zone. The likely result would be that Russia would default on repayments of the \$18 billion already provided by the IMF. So far Russia has kept up to date on its debt service, repaying \$5 billion over the past five months.

But without the next loan instalment, Russia would have to print itself into hyperinflation to meet its foreign debt obligations.

"Politically, I don't see how the IMF can refuse them the money. They have got no choice," said one senior Western economist in Moscow.

"The Finaco scandal has been blown out of all proportion, and even if Central Bank people were lining their own pockets a bit, it at least means they weren't on the payrolls of the big [commercial] bankers."

Yuri Skuratov, the Chief Prosecutor, has accused the Central Bank and Finaco, which was technically owned by the bank of possible illegal activity. Although no proof has emerged that actual theft took place, records do appear to have been doctored to

exclude certain deals. Viktor Gerashchenko, the Central Bank Chairman, has employed PriceWaterhouseCoopers to conduct a special audit of Finaco, although this will not be the first time Western auditors have been called in.

A deal between Russia and the IMF is now desperately needed by both sides, especially since Mr Primakov, who promised before he became Prime Minister that nobody should expect quick results from him, has been dragging out negotiations on economic restructuring for so long.

President Yeltsin is known to be irritated by Mr Primakov's failure to strike a deal and Moscow is buzzing with rumours that the Prime Minister is about to be sacked.

However, much though Mr Yeltsin might like to get rid of the increasingly powerful and popular Mr Primakov, such a move would probably result in his own power being challenged by the State Duma.

It is more likely, therefore, that Yuri Maslyukov, the first Deputy Prime Minister and the Government's chief negotiator with the IMF, or Gennadi Kulik, his deputy, will be sacrificed.



Yaakov Huster, right, beside the Byzantine church mosaic that he has uncovered

Israeli army post faces attack from archaeologists

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered the excellently preserved remains of a Byzantine church named after John the Baptist, but are unable to complete their excavation because an Israeli army position is directly on top of the site.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported yesterday that the controversial dig is taking place in the northwest corner of the Gaza Strip, which is still under Israeli occupation.

Although a large part of the church, dating back to AD544, has been uncovered, the military position is preventing experts from reaching all the structure.

"I met the Israel Defence Force commanders there and told them that I hope that this great big army could move a small position," said Yaakov Huster, an Israeli archaeologist. "They told me that they would look into it, that they were doing the best they can. But I have not heard anything yet."

A defence force spokesman said that there was a meeting between representatives of the Antiquities Authority and IDF officials over the matter last week. A number of proposals were suggested and the matter is under discussion.

An impressive mosaic

has been found at the entrance to the sixth-century church, which states that it was called St John and that its foundations were laid in 544. The inscription also praises those who donated money for the mosaic — Victor and Yohanan — and says that the work was completed in 550. The church, measuring about 25 yards by 13 yards, was built during the reign of the Emperor Justinian, when monuments were particularly lavish in the Holy Land.

Mr Huster added: "This is a significant find because it gives an exact date for the foundation of the church and the completion of its mosaic floors and spits light on this period."

He said that there are numerous Byzantine remains along the coast from the Israeli resort of Ashdod to Gaza City, now under Palestinian control. Most are monasteries, but this church was thought to have served a small village because the floor was donated and there was no mention of an abbot.

It is believed that it was abandoned at about the time of the Arab conquest in AD634. There were no signs of destruction or fire and only ornamental mantels decorated with crosses were defaced. The mosaic remained protected by sand.

France tries six absent Libyans for bombings

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A FRENCH COURT yesterday began hearing in absentia a case against six Libyan secret service agents accused of killing 170 people in a terrorist attack on a French civilian airliner in 1989.

One of those accused, Abdallah Senoussi, 47, is the brother-in-law of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, who has refused to extradite the defendants. But he has indicated that he might be willing to jail the men in Libya if they were found guilty.

At the same time Colonel Gaddafi is waging an apparently successful diplomatic of-

fensive to persuade the French Government to push for a lifting of the 1992 United Nations embargo imposed on Libya for its refusal to co-operate with investigations into the Lockerbie plane bombing and the attack on the French DC10.

In the French bombing a UTA flight from Brazzaville, Congo, to Paris via Ndjamena in the desert in Niger, killing all 156 passengers and 14 crew members on September 19, 1989. Bonnie Pugh, the wife of the US Ambassador to Chad, and Mahamat Soumahila, Chad's Planning Minister, were on board.

French detectives, helped by the FBI, discovered fragments

of a timing device bought in Germany by Libyan agents. They also traced a member of the Congolese opposition movement, Bernard Yanga, who said one of his colleagues had unwittingly carried a suitcase that contained the explosives onto the plane. Mr Yanga said the attack was to avenge French support for Chad in its war with Libya in the 1980s.

Mr Senoussi, head of international operations of the Libyan secret services, is being tried along with Colonel Issa Shibani, head of technical services, Abdallah Elazragh, 64, head of the Brazzaville bureau, and three of his subordinates.

SCOTTISH FEE SUPPORT REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Government has appointed the Scottish Fee Support Review to examine the fee support arrangements for students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland who will be in the final year of honours degree courses at Scottish universities and colleges from 2001/02 onwards. The Review invites evidence by 31 March 1999.

If you would like to submit evidence or views, please write to:

Scottish Fee Support Review

Fourth Floor

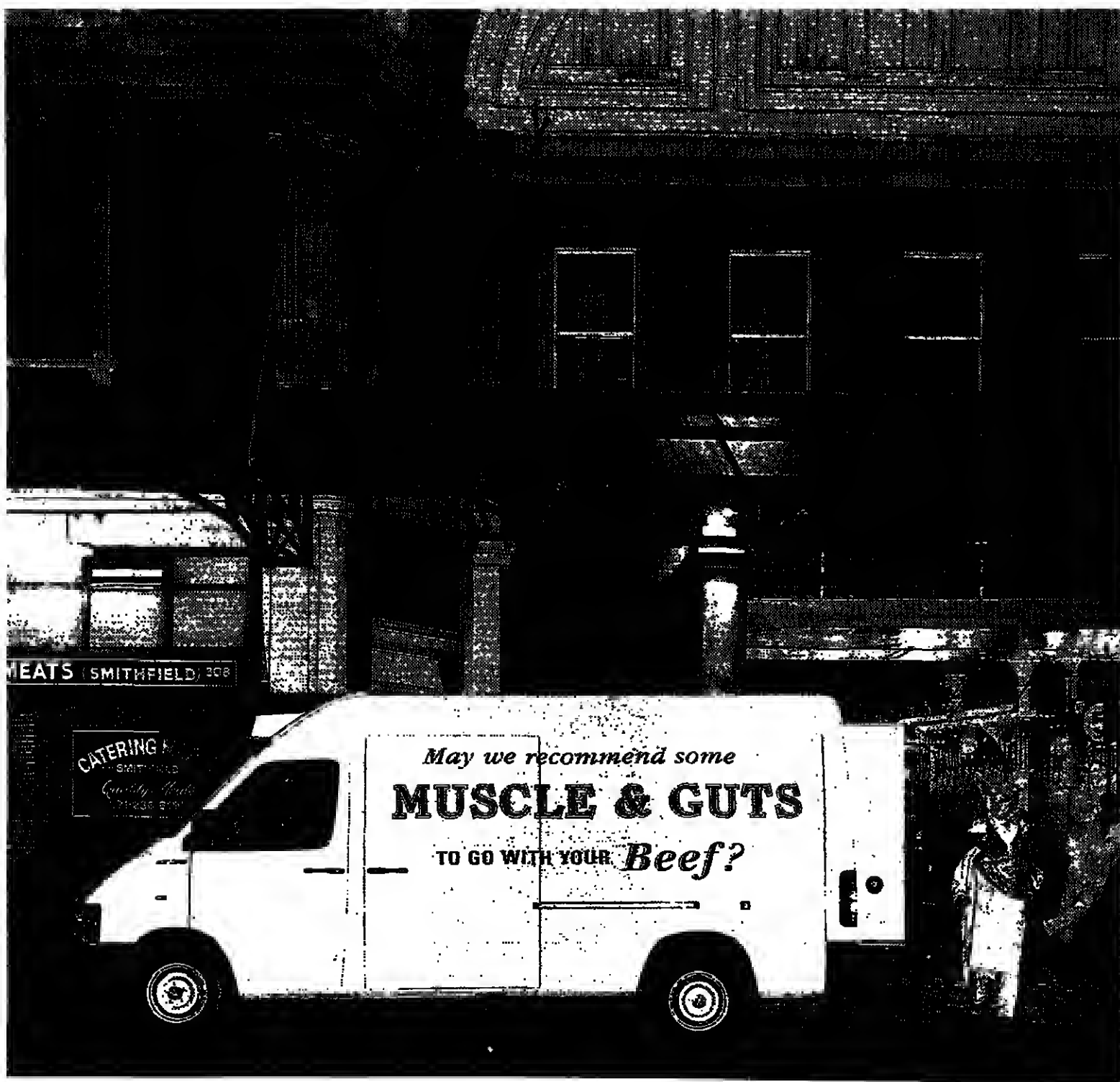
35 Old Queen Street

London SW1H 9JA

or

scottishfee.supportreview@dfee.gov.uk

Questionnaires are being sent to students' associations and other representative and funding bodies, as well as to universities and colleges. If you would like a questionnaire or guidance on the form that your evidence might take, please either write to the address above or telephone the Review's Secretariat on 0171 233 0352.



CALL 0800 71 71 31 FOR YOUR NEAREST VOLKSWAGEN VAN CENTRE. WWW.VOLKSWAGEN.CO.UK

LT. BUILT TO WORK



Commercial Vehicles

هكنا من الذحل



Mobile message falls on deaf ears

OUTST
PERFO
UNRI
PI





Schröder, angered by phone advertisement

Mobile message falls on deaf ears

By Roger Boyes

THE German Chancellor was said to be upset yesterday by the unauthorised use of his photograph in an advertisement for mobile telephones.

"I must tell Oskar," Gerhard Schröder says in the advertisement, in a reference to Oskar Lafontaine, his Finance Minister.

The text is advertising the message that rates of Mobilcom telephone company are cheaper than those of the market leader, Deutsche Telekom. Photographs of Herr Schröder talking into the telephone made the news yesterday and at the weekend.

Since the Social Democrat-Green Government came to power in autumn, German advertisers have been having a field day pinning photographs of politicians. A favourite target is Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister. He has authorised only one out of dozens of advertisements featuring his face, but even this relatively modest plug for an encyclopaedia has led to a hail of criticism. Advertisers argue that politicians' images are in the public domain. Politicians, keen initially to increase their public recognition, now believe their images are being devalued.

Danger man of Bonn dogged by EU rumour

OSKAR LAFONTAINE, the German Finance Minister once dubbed the "most dangerous man" in Europe, was again tipped yesterday to be the next President of the European Union.

When the rumour first surfaced, the Jesuit-educated Herr Lafontaine joked that he was running for Pope, not for the European Commission, but the denials last night were less jovial.

The reason is clear: Herr Lafontaine believes confidants of Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, are trying to clip his wings. A move to Brussels, indeed any suggestion he is less than fully committed to his two jobs as Finance Minister and Social Democratic Party chairman, is interpreted as a sign of weakness.

Herr Lafontaine has come under criticism for his half-hearted tax reforms, which do little to relieve ordinary income-tax payers but seem to penalise big companies which are threatening to switch their investment to other EU countries, including Britain. He is also being blamed for the confused state of the Social Democratic Party. For the first time since the election last autumn, the Social Democrat-Green coalition no longer enjoys a majority in opinion polls.

Herr Lafontaine started his stint in power by shocking his European allies, calling for tax harmonisation, tighter political and economic integration and target exchange-rate

A plot to push Lafontaine into Brussels job is detected, writes Roger Boyes

zones. At home he has shocked Germans by suggesting — contrary to pledges made by Herr Schröder — that there could be a working alliance with the previously shunned ex-communists, the Party of Democratic Socialists. Yet the pressure of getting a deal on the reform of European finances — the present deadline is the European summit on March 25 — has pushed him up. So, too, has the dwindling importance of the Social Democratic Party in the day-to-day process of government. The power of the party chairmanship has shrunk accordingly.

The result is a vacuum at the heart of Bonn politics between the Chancellor who, like Helmut Kohl before him, is trying to create a presidential style of government, and the technically most important but invariably absent Cabinet minister.

The Chancellor's chief aide, Bodo Hombach, has called for more discipline in the Government and is trying to pull back some of the authority that has trickled away over the past five months. But these efforts

seem to be accompanied by covert briefings against troublesome ministers.

Hence the new life given to the old rumour — carried as a front-page story in *La Stampa* of Turin — that Herr Lafontaine is destined to succeed Jacques Santer in Brussels. The truth is that the Chancellor almost certainly favours the former Prime Minister of Italy, Romano Prodi.

Signor Prodi was recently seen in Bonn dining with Herr Kohl. Both men were later invited for a second dinner with Herr Schröder.

Herr Lafontaine may be down but he is not out. His chief weakness is the poor state of the economy and no amount of lobbying for lower interest rates can make up for the fact that unemployment has been climbing steeply since the Social Democrats came to power.

The responsibility for the flagging economy is shared with the Chancellor, however. The German Chamber of Commerce forecasts growth this year of barely 1.5 per cent. Only a few months ago double that rate was predicted.

In January, producer prices dropped by 2.3 per cent compared to January 1998, the steepest fall for years. With the euro sliding rapidly against the dollar and investment switching abroad, German economists are talking openly of a looming recession.

Leading article, page 23



Herr Lafontaine in Bonn yesterday, in front of a portrait of a former parliamentary leader, Herbert Wehner

Cook will ask Nigeria to stay in peace role

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Nigeria last night for four days of intensive talks to keep West African forces in Sierra Leone and to map out the ruined country's political and economic recovery.

He will also hold a summit with his French counterpart to try to heal the wounds of nearly a century of Anglo-French rivalry in Africa, and they will join forces to prevent the fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo from destabilising surrounding countries.

In Nigeria he will urge Olusegun Obasanjo, the President-elect, not to pull troops out of Sierra Leone, where they form the backbone of the Ecomog intervention force that has been fighting the rebels. There are strong fears in London that Nigeria will tire of its heavy losses and costly operations to prop up the tottering Government of President Kabbah, and may withdraw. But this would hand victory to the brutal Revolutionary United Front, which last month almost overran Freetown, the capital.

Mr Cook will promise President Kabbah maximum support to keep him in power and help to rebuild his country. Last week the Government announced £10 million in emergency aid — mostly for equipment, communications and military logistics and to help to demilitarise captured rebel forces. That is on top of £4 million already committed, making Sierra Leone one of the biggest recipients of British emergency aid over the past year.

Nigeria's presidential elections are seen as a vital step in bringing stability to West Africa, and Mr Cook will congratulate Mr Obasanjo on his victory and General Abdulsalam Abubakar, outgoing head of the military Government, for allowing civilian rule.

Nigeria was yesterday promised a rapid return to full Commonwealth membership. To mark Commonwealth Day, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General — and a former Nigerian Foreign Minister — said that he expected Nigeria to be readmitted on May 29, the day the civilian Government takes office.

Mr Cook's visit was yesterday upstaged by that of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, President Clinton's special envoy, who arrived with messages of congratulation from the White House for both Nigerian leaders. Mr Jackson will visit the volatile Delta region.

Later Mr Cook will make a joint visit with Hubert Vedrine, France's Foreign Minister, to Ghana and Ivory Coast. They will call a meeting of the region's British and French ambassadors to proclaim a new era of Franco-British co-operation in a continent where colonial rivalry has pitted anglophone and francophone Africans against each other.

That rivalry was bitterly underlined in Uganda last week when Rwandan Hutu extremists who murdered eight English-speaking tourists first separated, then left unharmed, those who spoke French.

Letters, page 23

Elders bury heads in sand as French diners hop into Australia habit

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

KANGAROO filets and ostrich steaks are becoming popular on Gallic dinner tables as younger French generations ignore their elders and embrace globalisation.

Figures published yesterday by the Australian Trade Commission in Paris said France had, contrary to its chauvinistic reputation, imported more kangaroo and ostrich meat than any other European

country last year. Australian kangaroo farms have been unable to make serious inroads in countries with strong animal rights lobbies such as Britain, but have found that the carnivorous French provide them with a boom market.

French importers have also asked for a licence to sell camel and crocodile meat, the magazine *Marianne* reported yesterday. The success of Sir Terence Conran's Parisian restaurant, Alcazar, which opened last year, is another sign that modern

French are willing to accept foreign products. "It is completely wrong to think that the French are nationalistic," said Anne Borgo, marketing manager with the Australian Trade Commission in the French capital. "The young are very open-minded."

Sales of Australian wine in France were rising by 60 per cent a year to reach 500,000 litres in 1998. Among the over-40s, these figures are likely to provoke collective apoplexy. Most would rather live on Perrier than be forced to touch a

drop of non-French wine. Spanish Rioja is seen as dangerously exotic, while Australian products are treated as a bad joke.

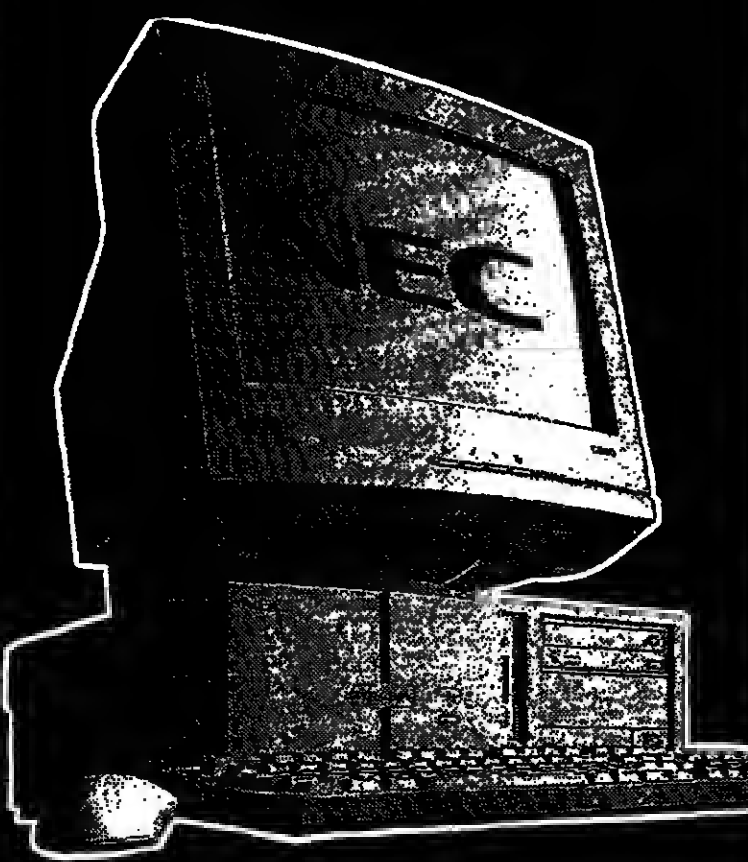
Australia is second only to Britain on France's hate list, but climbed to first place for a few months in 1995 as the two countries fell out over French nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Kati Jahromi, Education Director at the Trade Commission, said older French generations continued to shape French policy and the country's image abroad.

"But the under-40s are completely different and they just do their own thing." Younger French people ate almost all the 900 tonnes of ostrich meat and 600 tonnes of kangaroo meat imported from Australia in 1998, and are likely to eat more this year, according to the commission. French farmers have jumped on the bandwagon and established several ostrich farms in western France, including one near Nantes, with 6,000 birds.

All the big French supermarkets

sell ostrich for up to Fr210 (about £23) a kilo, and most sell kangaroo filets for about Fr70 a kilo. "We tested kangaroo meat on 6,000 people in France last year," said Mme Borgo. "and 100 per cent said they liked it. It is fat free and tastes very similar to beef." Australian attempts to sell kangaroo in Britain have foundered because of misgivings about eating such an apparently cuddly animal. But there are no such problems in France, which has a long tradition of consuming horsemeat.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, UNRIVALLED PRICE.



Thinking of replacing those old office machines? The NEC Direction SP-350B has Microsoft Excel and Word pre-loaded, is powered by an Intel® Pentium® II processor 350MHz, with plenty of memory and disk space, and a powerful video accelerator, so it can handle almost anything, now and in the future. All at a great price. Still thinking? Call us now, we can help.



NEC Direction SP-350B

- Intel® Pentium® II Processor 350MHz
- 64Mb SDRAM
- 512Kb Internal Cache
- 8.4Gb EIDE Ultra DMA/33 Hard Drive
- 14-32x CD-ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert 98 AGP Graphics Accelerator with 8Mb SDRAM Video Memory
- 15" NEC Colour Monitor (0.28 dot pitch; 13.8" viewable)
- Logitech Roller Mouse, Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows 98, McAfee VirusScan, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Microsoft® Office Small Business Edition Version 2 (Includes MS Word 97, MS Excel 97, MS Publisher 97, MS Small Business Financial Manager, MS Autoroute Express GB 6.0, MS Internet Explorer, MS Outlook 97)
- Desktop Chassis (Minitower option)

12 MONTHS NEXT BUSINESS DAY ON-SITE WARRANTY

£769

£937.65

INCLUDING VAT & DELIVERY

NEC DIRECT

World leading technology at your fingertips direct from the manufacturer

- NEC is a world leader in IT technology, creating leading edge products for many of the world's largest multinationals.
- All our PCs are year 2000 compliant.
- All for astonishingly low prices which, to quote Windows International Magazine, "has left the rest of the industry scratching their heads in wonder."
- New technology, made and delivered to order, configured to specific needs.

Ring NEC Direct on 0870 0106322

CALLS CHARGED AT NATIONAL RATE

MY FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF

Financially speaking, having an accident or becoming ill can have serious long term effects on your standard of living. Six months off work and your employer may be under no obligation to keep paying you. So you're looking at government handouts. With State Incapacity Benefit a married man with one child is expected to survive on £97.80 a week. Could your family survive? They might find it easier if you had a Norwich Union SafeGuard Income Protection policy behind you.

IF I'D DIED

Every year over 72,000 people are seriously injured in car accidents. Of course, your life insurance will protect your family should the worst happen to you, the breadwinner. But what if the worst didn't happen and you survived? In hospital for several months. Unable to work. How long do you think your employer would keep your position open? So what happens when the salary cheque fails to arrive at the end of the month? Well, chances are you'll find yourself in the hands of the welfare state. That could mean you'll have to support your wife and child with under £6,000 a year. But there is an alternative. Norwich Union's SafeGuard Income Protection policy protects you and your family against almost all types of injury or illness, by providing you with a monthly tax-free income of up to 66% of your salary. Every month, until you're fit enough to work again or until you retire. This peace of mind starts from as little as £10 a month. For more information call Norwich Union free on 0800 400 123.

Please return coupon to Norwich Union HealthCare Ltd, Freeport, Chelmsford, Essex, Chelmsford Corporate Park, Toppens Way, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 2BG.

Name: _____

First Name and Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Occupation: _____

I am aged between 18-64 ☐ PLEASE TICK THIS BOX IF YOU ARE SELF-EMPLOYED ☐

INSURANCE UNDERWRITTEN BY NORWICH UNION LIFE & PENSIONS LIMITED, REGISTERED OFFICE 14, SUREBURY STREET, NORWICH, NR1 1NS. REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NO. 253947. CALLS MAY BE RECORDED AND LISTED FOR IMPROVED CUSTOMER SERVICE. DETAILS YOU SUPPLY MAY BE USED BY THE NORWICH UNION GROUP OF COMPANIES AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS FOR MARKETING PURPOSES SUCH AS MARKET RESEARCH AND CONDUCTING YOUR INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT NEEDS. IF YOU WISH TO OPT OUT OF NORWICH UNION GROUP MARKETING PLEASE WRITE TO NORWICH UNION, FREEPOST, MARKETING OPT-OUT TEAM, PO BOX 903, SHEPHERD ST BLDG, 10001, SHEPHERD ST BLDG, 10001.

What older mums are not told

Having children later in life could trigger early menopause. Miranda Ingram reports

Christina Newell has an enviable media career, helpful husband and an intelligent lively four-year-old son. Yet what should be the prime of her life is, at 45, completely ruined by the relentless misery of an unexpected early menopause. "I'm exhausted, I can't sleep, I suffer from hot flushes and carpal tunnel syndrome — pain and numbness in the arm which means I can't hold anything for more than 20 seconds, my legs and hips ache constantly and the hormones are raging."

"I knew, being an older mother, that I wouldn't be much good on the football pitch, but I thought I would make it up intellectually. Now when Joshua asks me to read Teddy Robinson for the fifth time I burst into tears. He looks up over his Fruitbix and I'm having a hot flush and he asks me what's wrong."

"It's unbearable having to say to a sweet, adoring child that Mummy is too tired again and again and again. At this stage you are their whole world: playmate, best friend, mother, the lot. But I feel like his grandmother. I am taking HRT, but feel I have no choice. There is breast cancer in the family so I think I wouldn't normally have risked it, but I had to do something to try and be there for Josh."

"My reaction to any problem is to read as much as possible about it. Yet in all the books on menopause, there is nothing about menopause and toddlers. It makes me feel like an outsider. All the literature talks about 'now your children

are leaving home' — the empty-nest syndrome which those middle life years have always been associated with."

"No one tells you how to cope when you're in floods of tears, your limbs are so heavy you cannot lift your arm and there's a bright-eyed little toddler pulling at your sleeve."

"I know there have always been women having children right up to the menopause, but they were the last children and there were probably older siblings around to help. Nor were women pursuing careers in the same ambitious, all-consuming way in those days."

Newell is convinced that there is a link between Nineties careers and early menopause, leaving many women in the same position. "Women are having children later because of their careers. But these same, stressful careers which make them put off the children, I'm sure, are bringing an early menopause, too. I have several friends also going through an early menopause — a 38-year-old mother of three and another of 45. Is it just coincidence that they are also my most high-achieving friends?"

Bridget Miles agrees with Newell. Mother of three children under six and equally high-flying, she, too, is menopausal long before she expected it. "Because I was working I kept putting off children, then suddenly found myself heading rapidly for 40. I had two daughters in quick succession at 38 and 39, felt fine, got re-established in my career, then had an accidental pregnancy at 43 and begged another ca-



Some older mothers going through early menopause believe that stress from high-flying careers may be a factor

reer break. Now I'm 45, menopausal with three small children and I cannot cope."

"From a fit, lively, intellectually fulfilled older mother I've turned into a drugged-out zombie, swallowing every antidepressant and menopause treatment available. I can barely make myself a cup of tea and I sit there sweating, aching and bursting into tears practically

every time I look at these lovely children."

Like Newell she also feels that she is alone. "I can't talk to anyone having children later in life is meant to make you 'young', so that's how everyone expects you to be, not starting on the ageing process."

"I'm sure that trying to do so much brought it [the menopause] on. My mother had

hers late, my older sister, who had her children earlier and doesn't work, shows no signs of starting."

Medically, there is no evidence that stress can bring on an early menopause (although it is acknowledged to interfere with menstrual cycles) but the various menopause clinics she spoke to agreed that no research has been done. Usually, although not always, a woman will follow her mother's pattern, yet all the women interviewed were going against the family trend and the main difference they saw between themselves and their mothers was the nature of their careers.

Increasing anecdotal evidence is needed to prompt the research, says a researcher at the menopause clinic in Guy's Hospital, in Southwark. There is, however, evidence that more and more women are having children later. Even if a link between early menopause and stress is not proved, there will be increasing numbers of women dealing with the peak of their careers, first toddlers and menopause at the same time over the next few years — a modern combination.

He looks up and asks what's wrong and I'm having a hot flush

don for which there is no support network.

"Of course women have always worked and have always been having children into their forties," says Pamela Armstrong, the former news-caster and author of *Beating the Biological Clock* — *The Joys and Challenges of Late Motherhood*. "The difference today is that whereas it used to be the eighth or ninth child, now it is the first or second."

"In earlier days, women were practised at motherhood by the time they had their late children, whereas these women are unskilled mothers. Often they have come straight from the boardroom, where everybody jumps at their word into a world of toddlers who behave very differently."

Interestingly, Armstrong discovered while researching her book that it is not just "career women" who are delaying motherhood. "Working-class women are also choosing to have children much later."

It is a result of what Armstrong calls the collapse of the meal ticket. "These women realise that, in these days of broken marriages and relationships, it is likely that they will face single motherhood and are putting off children until they are financially secure."

Breast implants are withdrawn

Many East Norfolk village names bear witness to their Viking origins and some of their inhabitants still look Scandinavian. Elsie, a tall, fair-haired giantess, helped to care for me when I was four or five and looked like a character in an Ibsen play.

Once, when I was being more of a nuisance than usual, she seized me and carried me off in disgrace. I retaliated with a hammering of juvenile fists. The effect was dramatic. Elsie dissolved into tears, abandoned me and rushed off to find my doctor father.

After calm had been restored, I was told that Elsie's collapse was because she believed that the pounding her breasts had received would certainly induce cancer, and all hopes of marriage to her boyfriend, Harry, and probably result in an early death. My father said to me that although Elsie's fears were based on the myth that injury to breasts caused cancer, it was still as well to treat them with care — and that was why women didn't box or play rugby. Now, of course, they do both without any apparent effect on breast-related mortality.

The idea that breast cancers follow physical trauma stemmed from improved diagnosis after an injury, rather than any increased incidence of malignancy. It seems that for some time after any breast trauma women take more care in examining them and, as a result, discover lumps they would otherwise have missed.

Breast disease, or injury, still induces an understandable anxiety and every precaution needs to be taken to avoid this even when there is no scientific evidence that it is likely to cause lasting ill-effects.

This accounts for the withdrawal by the manufacturers of Translucant breast implants. Of the 5,000 Translucant implants since 1995, 74 have received adverse reports, such as swelling and inflammation of the breast occurring after rupture of the implant sac and the leaking of the contained soya oil. The signs and symptoms of the inflammation have been resolved once the implant has been removed. Barry Jones, a consultant surgeon, says: "There is no reason to suppose that there is any long-term health risk as a result of rupture and subsequent leaking of these implants."

However, doctors have been asked to identify patients who have had these implants and report any adverse effects. But

they have been told that there is no indication to remove any implant that is not giving rise to trouble.

Breast reconstructive surgery is not only one of the forms of cosmetic surgery most often asked for by patients, but the one where the results give the patient the greatest satisfaction. Whereas nose reshaping often leaves a patient dissatisfied, it is rare to receive complaints about a remodeled breast.

It has been hoped that the Translucant implant would be almost ideal: it doesn't interfere with X-ray mammography, it can be implanted in front of the pectoralis muscle and gives a natural appearance and feel. It had also been thought that the oil was inert and if it did leak, would be metabolised by the body.

In America, there have also been problems with silicone breast implants and they have been withdrawn except in post-mastectomy reconstructive surgery. In Britain, an in-

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

dependent government review body, containing only one plastic surgeon but also immunologists, oncologists and other specialist doctors, has cleared them and concluded that there is no evidence that leaking silicone induces auto-immune disease — in particular, systemic lupus, as had been suggested in America — or any other significant health problem.

Silicone implants are available in different types: the smooth-skinned variety, which seems to be most likely to induce a local reaction, capsular contracture and resultant hard breast, or ones with a textured outer shell, which reduces the incidence of contracture to between 2 and 1 per cent. The silicone gel filling an implant may either be the consistency of thick oil, or of a uncooked jelly — cohesive silicone gel — which is moulded into shape and is unlikely to leak. Saline-filled implants are also used but have to be faced under the pectoralis muscle and look less natural.

Women who have had trouble from their Translucant implants are likely to fare as well as Elsie. She married Harry, lived to an old age and never suffered any breast disease.

Get a better deal on private healthcare

from 50p a day

Come to Prime Health to discover health insurance with a difference. With a full range of plans to meet every need, you can be certain we'll have exactly the cover to suit you.

And because we're part of Standard Life, Europe's largest mutual life assurance company, you can be confident Prime Health set out to deliver the best value health insurance available.

Just compare the cost of Prime Health's leading plan, Primecare, with those of other insurers:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Monthly premium for a single person, aged 35 | |
| Primecare | £35.54 |
| BUPACare | £43.48 |
| PPP Extensive | £53.91 |
| Norwich Union Express Care | £55.80 |

YOURS FREE

Find out how much you could be saving on quality health insurance by phoning now for a no-obligation quote. We'll even send you a FREE £25 Marks & Spencer voucher if you join Prime Health before 31st March 1999.

Call

Quoting ref: M16301GV

0800 77 99 55

to find out more

Prime Health

A member of the Standard Life Group

Although benefits vary between products, we believe the table shows a realistic and unbiased comparison between our products and those of our competitors. All premiums quoted are based on a single person aged 35 and are correct at time of going to press. The Primecare premium is shown with a £25 Marks & Spencer voucher which is available to all new policyholders. Gift voucher terms and conditions: 1. Allow 28 days from the date of receipt by Prime Health at the purchaser's first premium payment for delivery of vouchers. 2. The gift will be withdrawn if the purchaser cancels the policy within 15 days of the policy start date. 3. This offer does not apply to existing policyholders, adding people to an existing policy or to company schemes.



LASER HAIR REMOVAL (FOR MEN AND WOMEN)

Our laser treatment removes unwanted body and facial hair gently, quickly and effectively.

Problem areas treated include face, under-arms, bikini line, legs, body, male chest and back.

For a confidential consultation, without charge please telephone our national number below to get instantly connected to your nearest clinic.

TELEPHONE: 0870 603 4444

THE HARLEY MEDICAL GROUP

6 Harley Street, London W1N 1AA

CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE UK - ESTABLISHED 1983

Taxed by the Budget?

The Budget (The Financial Statement and Budget Report) is published this afternoon. As you know, it's essential reading and is available immediately upon publication from The Stationery Office.

Call The Budget Order Line to order your copy.

ALL THE FACTS ON THE DAY



The Stationery Office

THE BUDGET ORDER LINE

Over 50 motor
Try Saga for high
0800 484 18

مكتبة النور

Chanel, saddle soap and the Gold Cup

Venetia Williams — once dubbed a racing mix of Margaret Thatcher and Princess Diana — has overcome all odds to emerge as a serious challenger to the leading male trainers in the world of National Hunt racing. Interview by Jason Cowley

An aura of mystery and intrigue surrounds Venetia Williams. In less than three years she has become the most exciting trainer in National Hunt racing, the grey chaser Tecton Mill, and the envy of the Lambourn set. In the closed, incestuous, overwhelmingly male world of National Hunt racing, she is something new and different: a young, attractive, single woman who works and lives at her stables in Ross-on-Wye, from where she has emerged to challenge the supremacy of the leading male trainers, attracting wealthy owners to her operation.

Her remarkable strike rate, averaging one winner every three races, has not been bettered even by the champion trainer Martin Pipe. And in one season she has transformed Tecton Mill from a promising hunter-chaser to a champion horse of the highest quality. Perhaps even a truly great horse to rank alongside another grey, Desert Orchid (the record-breaking grey, now retired, remains much-loved by punters). Tecton Mill has, in the past four months, won the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury and the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park, and he is favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup next week, the highlight of the National Hunt season.

No horse has done the triple since Ackle in 1963-64. And there is still the Grand National to go for next month, a race in which Williams has another runner among the favourites, General Wolfe.

At the recent Martell Grand National weights luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel, in Park Lane, Central London, it was hard to find someone who did not have an opinion about Williams. From the grizzled racing editors of the national papers to the pundits, from the leading bookmakers to the BBC broadcasters Des Lynam and John Inverdale, everyone, it seemed, was talking about her. Why isn't she married? they whispered. Is Tecton Mill carrying an injury? What is her secret?

The woman herself seemed gloriously unaffected by all the speculation, swapping jokes with the former jockey-turned-broadcaster Richard Pitman and fighting her way through a scrum of reporters eager for news about Tecton Mill. Later, sitting in an empty bar, she spoke of how startled she was by her progress.

"To be honest, the whole thing has taken me over. When I started I had nine horses and now, in three years, I have more than 60, far more than I ever imagined. It's frightening. I've never been in this ballpark before. I'm struggling to stand back and look at it objectively. I haven't really had a lead-in period, so quickly have I come from relative obscurity to training the Gold Cup favourite."

Stephen Winstanley, the founder of Winning Line, which owns Tecton Mill, has called Williams a "racing mix of Margaret Thatcher and Princess Diana", her character a blend of silk and steel. But the Princess Royal might be a more apt comparison: in person, Williams is brusque, direct, self-contained and largely without



Setting her cap at the cup: Venetia Williams with the Gold Cup favourite, Tecton Mill. Her strike rate averages a winner every three races

pretensions, speaking in a clipped, though not excessively posh, English county accent. The veteran trainer Jerry Pitman may be known as the first lady of racing, but she is very much one of the boys: a tough, blunt, hard-smoking, expletive-delivering horsewoman. Williams, with her Chanel handbag and thick black hair, is perfumed and fragrant; she would not be out of place in the pages of *Harpers & Queen*.

Yet her career almost ended before it began. She was riding as an amateur in a low-key race at Worcester in 1988 when her horse hit the final hurdle, propelling

her out of the saddle. She landed on her head on hard ground, breaking the hangman's bone in her neck. "If the bone had been displaced, I'd be fit under," she says, laughing. "I was perfectly conscious after the fall and can remember everything, especially the feeling of being paralysed from my neck downwards."

Was there a moment when she thought that she might never walk again?

"At the time you are living so completely in the moment. You're not thinking 'Oh my God, I'm not going to move again'. I can remember feeling the grass against my face but there was no feeling in the

rest of my body. After about ten minutes, with people rubber-necking, I started getting pins and needles all the way down my arms and legs. The feeling raised to a great intensity, faded away and then I could feel everything again."

She spent the next three months in traction in hospital at Worcester. The incident concentrated her thinking, coming as it did just weeks after she had been knocked unconscious after falling at Becher's Brook while riding in the Grand National — she was one of the few women to compete in the race before the course was modified.

"A friend from the Jockey Club advised me to give up, reminding me that I wasn't riding to earn my living. You never know how strong the fracture was and what might happen next time." She fleetingly considered returning to secretarial work (she is a 100-words-a-minute shorthand typist) before she began her long apprenticeship as a trainer, working in Australia and the United States, alongside the pioneering Martin Pipe and as an assistant to John Edwards.

The emergence of Williams is exactly what National Hunt racing has been waiting for. The poor relation of the Flat, the

embattled winter sport has been buffeted in recent months by race-rigging scandals, unease about excessive use of the whip by certain riders, diminishing prize funds and the agitation of animal rights protesters.

The sport has also been called reactionary and chauvinistic, but Williams will say only: "I've not encountered any problems. I'm a woman, the others are men. So what. I can't see the big deal."

Williams, 35, grew up in the Herefordshire countryside, where she still lives, the daughter of a gentleman farmer. Her grandparents owned and raced horses on the Flat, and both her paternal grandfather and her father were masters of the local hunt — which she is, at first, embarrassed to reveal. "Why?" I ask. "Well," she hesitates, looking at her feet. "I don't know if you can talk about hunting these days. People get frightfully excited about it and take terrible offence. And it's true that we do make enormous demands on our horses, perhaps in a slightly unnatural way, because after all we are training them to win races, to be fitter and go faster than any of their rivals. But I suppose saying my father was a master of a hunt is not on a par with Mr Hoddle's comments. At least, I hope not." She raises her head, smiling.

One wonders how much Williams's remarkable rise has cost her, how much she has had to sacrifice on the altar of her ambition. She concedes that her work is gruelling, and that she has "little time for anything else". A typical day begins at 6.30am when, assisted by her head lad, she feeds each of her horses. "Then I ride out with the first lot of horses. If a particular horse is entered for a race the following day, I decide whether to run it or not; then I might go racing, which could mean travelling to the other side of the country. If I'm not going racing, I spend time on the gallops and then work in the office, watching races on the Racing Channel, talking to owners and organising stuff."

Organising stuff — administration work and grappling with the logistics of running an expanding stables — can be the most demanding part of her day, and she often works long into the night. "It can be a demanding and tiring life," she says. "I live alone. I have no family, although my secretary lives in the granny annexe on the site. Most of the time I'm working very late and I feel quite isolated at times. The whole thing has run away with me really, with more and more owners attracted to the stables. Sometimes I feel like saying 'Hold on, no more!'"

So what of the rumours surrounding Tecton Mill's fitness in the febrile run-up to the Gold Cup on March 18? He won at Ascot on February 20, and Williams says that he is fine. "In fact, he bit me the other morning. I was feeling his legs, which I do to all the horses when I feed them, to check that their tendons are not inflamed, and he bit me on the bottom."

There are many men who would want to do the same, I joke, such are the hazards of being the talented trainer of a champion grey.

Why I went to a sex party

When Carrie, of *Channel 4's Sex and the City*, said she wanted to have sex "the way men do", there was a gasp of recognition from women. A year ago I was expressing the same desire, so I did something about it — I went to a sex party.

I am an attractive, intelligent, professional, single woman — just like the characters in the series — and I wanted an experience free from guilt, angst, shame and commitment. That is exactly what I got, and I have no regrets.

But where Carrie et al are motivated by bitterness at men's perceived perfidy — they want to turn the tables on the guys — I just wanted sex without a relationship. So I chose the most direct route to fulfil that desire.

I was recently divorced, on the wrong side of 35, with three children to bring up. I was working sporadically (as a part-time broadcast journalist) and had no chance to go out in the evening. My chances of meeting a man were slim. One side-effect of being a mother at home on your own can be the loss of self-confidence. I began to doubt my own attractiveness as it was not being verified by others. I knew I needed to have one-on-one human contact.

This mixture of sexual frustration, lack of opportunity and self-doubt continued until I read an article in a magazine about people with alternative views of the world. One, a performance artist, mentioned going to sex parties where he enjoyed group sex, tantric sex, voyeurism — the works. A contact number was given for an organisation that ran parties in London. I wrote, and ended

Nadine Williams wanted sex — but not a relationship. So she found herself enjoying a sensual evening with 300 guests

up on the mailing list. None of the events struck a chord with me (many took the form of demonstrations calling for Britain's antiquated sex laws to be scrapped) until a flyer came through for an all-night garden party in Hampstead, North London. Couples and singles were invited, tickets



Swinging partners: "People were making positive choices"

cost £20 for entrance, buffet, soft drinks and entertainment. An open-minded female friend was happy to come along, more out of curiosity than a desire to have sex with strangers. We were filled with trepidation as we made our way to the house off Bishops Avenue, a road that has more million-

aires than you can shake a stick at. We had convinced ourselves the party would be full of dirty old men: the ugly, the stinking, the desperate and the drooling. We feared we would be the only "normal" people there, that the only other women would be prostitutes, that we could be in danger, that the

police would raid the joint, that our mogshots would be slipped on the front of the *News of the World*, that our families would find out, and that our whole worlds would crumble. Did any of the above happen? No.

The large, semi-detached house had six bedrooms, suffused with dim pink lighting. The walls and ceiling were draped in gauzy material. There was a smell of incense, dreamy ambient music played and candles flickered. I had expected sleaze; instead I found a sensual, laid-back atmosphere. There were some 300 partygoers present, comprising heterosexual couples, gay couples and straight and gay singles. Some people wore suits or dresses, others were dressed in leather and rubber, fur and feathers. Some were having sex in shadowy corners, others were chatting or

dancing. There were also private rooms for couples only.

The participants were overwhelmingly professional. I spoke to a physiotherapist, a doctor-turned-businessman, a mature student doing an MA in politics, a computer programmer and an architect. All said that what they got from the parties was not necessarily sex but a feeling of liberation at being among like-minded people, all of whom were free of sexual hang-ups, who simply wanted to relax. They found the parties distressed them, just as alcohol, smoking, sports or recreational drugs might do for others.

Any sex that did take place was entirely consensual, and there were strict rules about women being treated with respect and courtesy. (Single men find it hardest to have a sexual encounter at these events as they greatly outnumber the women.) As one of the few women without a male partner, I was treated with a huge amount of fuss by some good-looking, intelligent and articulate men. It sounds facile, but that alone helped me to regain my confidence.

Some may say swingers trivialise sex, that it should be a sacred union between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation. Others may say I was naive, that I saw only what I wanted to see, that the women there were pressurised into attending by their boyfriends or husbands bent on titillation to pep up a stale relationship. I cannot swear blind that that is not true. But I saw people making a positive choice that was not harming anyone else: the women entered into the spirit of things as enthusiastically as the men. There were free condoms and a lot of laughter.

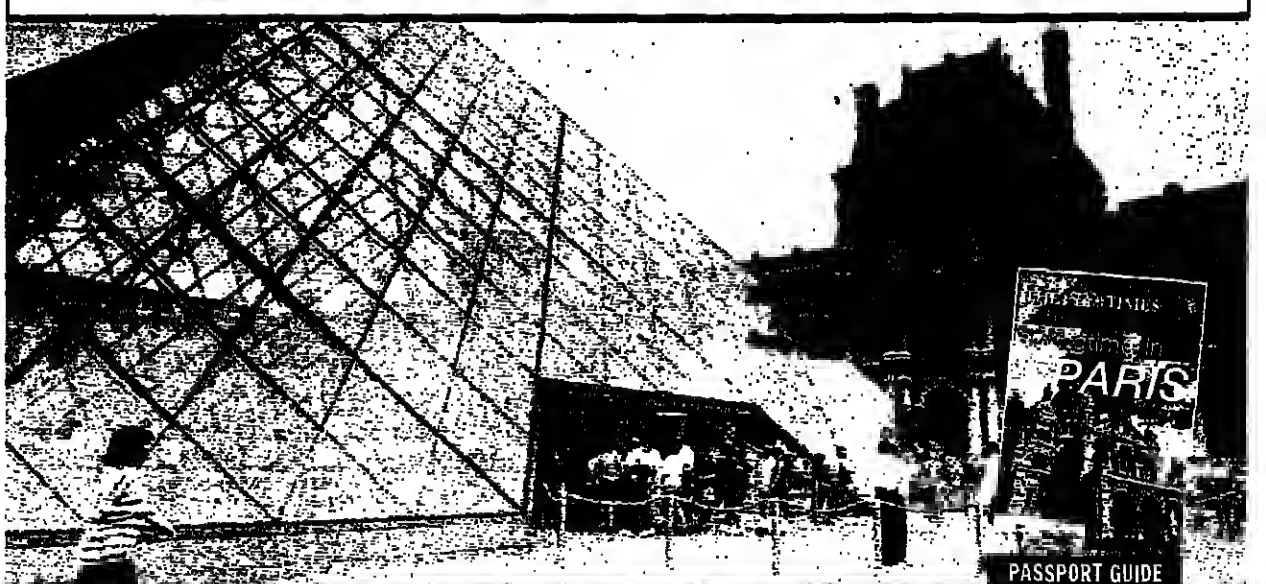
As long as one goes to these parties with a clear head about what they entail — sex for recreation, no more, no less — I believe that they serve a useful outlet for the tensions of everyday life. They are an escape.

Maybe I am being superficial, and when I believed I was suffering from sexual frustration what I really wanted was to be loved. Because, as we all know, sex is easy, love is hard. But I got what I felt I needed at the time with no harm done to anyone, least of all myself.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

PASSPORT TO PARIS



- 11 Sofitel Hotels to choose from
- 15 per cent off Air France fares
- more than 70 Springtime offers

Readers of *The Times* can enjoy more than 70 discounts and special offers at popular tourist sights in Paris with our exclusive Springtime in Paris guide, devised in association with Sofitel and Air France. You can, for example, visit the Musée du Vin, see the history of wine-making in action and enjoy a tasting. Passport holders can save £1.75 pp. Passport holders enjoy a two for one admission, saving £8, when they visit the Château de Compiègne, an outstanding royal residence. Set in a beautiful park, it also contains a famous car museum.

HOW TO GET YOUR EXCLUSIVE SPRINGTIME IN PARIS GUIDE

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and attach them to the application form which will appear tomorrow. You will be sent a 36-page guide plus a Passport Card to present at the various venues to claim your discount or special offer.

- The elegant Sofitel hotels are offering readers two nights for the price of one on weekend visits at one of their 11 hotels throughout the French capital. Simply call 0181-283 4570 and quote *The Times*/Passport to Paris offer to book your stay.

- With Air France you receive a 15 per cent reduction off any Air France published fares (excluding taxes) from the UK to Paris. Full details of the offer, the routes and how to book are in your Passport Guide.



CHANGING TIMES

Over 50 and renewing your motor insurance?

Try Saga for high cover, low cost motor insurance

FREE 0800 484 184 quoting reference TM3919

Our lines are open 8.30am to 7pm weekdays, and 9am to 1pm Saturdays.

Telephone calls may be monitored/recorded for staff training purposes.

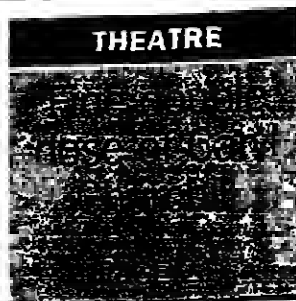
Saga Services would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

SAGA



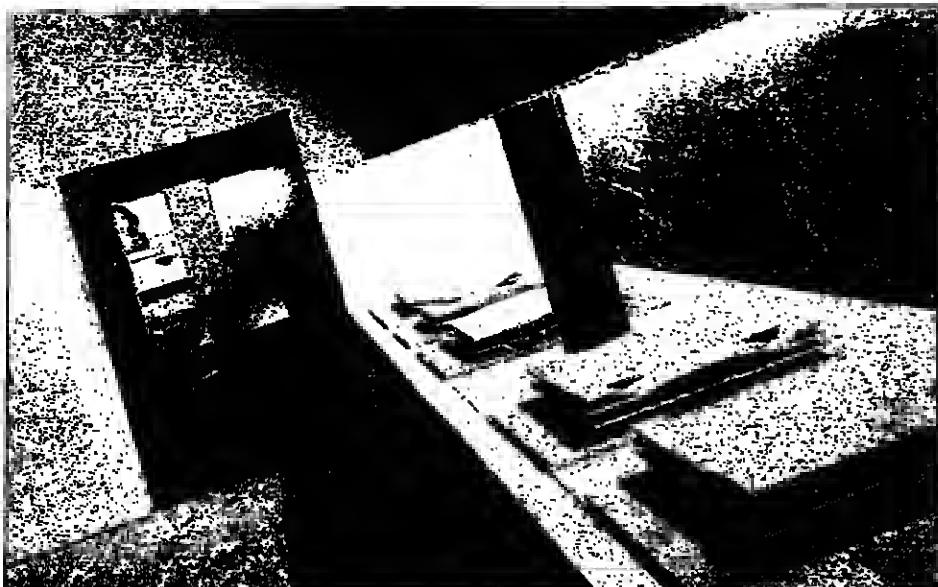
CARTOONS
At a bookshop
near you, a
mural rises
PAGE 20

THE TIMES ARTS



Utopia is reborn a mile in the air

Or so the architects displayed in two provocative Glasgow shows would have you think. **Marcus Binney reports**



Yokohama's future starts in Glasgow: a model of Japan's new international port terminal.

Visionary architects dream of building in impossible places. None more so than Frank Lloyd Wright, whose work is on show in a fantastic exhibition at the Kelvingrove Museum as part of *Glasgow 1999*, Glasgow's Year of Architecture. One proposed house is perched on the edge of a giant meteor crater, another on a man-made spur over the Pacific with a series of telescopic echo chambers designed to amplify the sound of waves crashing against the rocks below.

An impressive number of these designs were actually built, most famously Wright's house at Fallingwater. David De Long, the show's organiser, says that Wright's clients, the Kaufmanns, were astounded. "They expected the house would be looking at the waterfall, not sitting on top of it."

High on a rocky hillside near Phoenix, Wright built a house to which ecologists would surely object today. But he bedded it so well in the terrain that there is no evident scar. Wright worshipped nature and his drawings are full of instructions to leave plants and trees undisturbed.

What makes this show so spellbinding is the number of visionary drawings that look as futuristic today as when they were new in the 1930s. As this is a travelling show, they are not the originals (which could not endure such long exposure to light) but back-lit colour photographs, all the actual size of the architect's large presentation drawings.

The originals are preserved in Wright's studio at Taliesin. All were approved by Wright, but some are clearly the work of apprentices working under his direction, with touches (such as greenery) added by the maestro. His drawings are actually more arresting in this illuminated form, as is evident from the throng of visitors absorbed in the displays.

There are also a remarkable number of first-class models, including one for Wright's (unbuilt) tapering mile-high skyscraper, the forerunner of the

kilometre-high tower that Sir Norman Foster is seeking to build in Tokyo Bay.

The theme is "the living city". Wright's own Utopia where often huge buildings are carefully spaced in open country. Here are his archetypes for every activity — offices, churches, schools, shopping, the arts and leisure, as well as individual houses and blocks of apartments. It's a solution that might work in the American West, where there is lots of space, and would in-

'Not resolved here is what sort of a mess these megalomaniac projects will make of the planet'

deed be better than, say, the unending sprawl that is covering north Italy from Milan to Venice. But it would require draconian planning powers of the type that architects tend to be the first to attack.

Architecture on a giant scale is also the theme of *Glasgow 1999*'s other big show, *Vertigo*, which looks in detail at ten major projects around the world that have been conceived by developers and politicians as much as by architects. Devised by the critic Rowan Moore and architect Caruso St John, it is set against soaring walls of white plasterboard installed in the Victorian Old Fruitmarket and intended as a forest of the new Tate Gallery at Bankside.

It is done in a scrupulously neutral way, leaving the visitor to decide what is class and what is kitsch. Hacienda housing for the rich and the latest themed shopping malls. In America alternate with Foster's new Hong Kong Airport and Richard Rogers's Millen-

nium Dome. And it shows that the new commercial centre of Shanghai has a classic of skyscraper design in the shape of the World Financial Centre, now rising to the design of Kohn Pedersen Fox.

Though it has been unkindly compared to a chisel, it ingeniously changes shape through 94 floors, beginning as a square, becoming a hexagon and ending up a blade. The huge hole at the top was conceived for a Ferris wheel, which proved impractical at such a height, but it will give China's new super-rich the chance to boast that they can fly a helicopter through the eye of the proverbial needle.

Another stunning project is the Duisburg-Nord park in Germany's Ruhr region. In Britain we have systematically cut up most of our rusting steel mills for scrap. The Rhinelanders have preserved them as monuments, turning them into attractive places by planting thousands of trees so they take on the aspect of a set for the palace in *Sleeping Beauty*. A series of summer events is held there and it's possible to climb 80ft up the walkways which served for inspecting the blast furnaces.

Strangest of all is the port terminal designed for Yokohama in Japan. The hope is that it will be as sensationally sculptural as the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

It's fashionable in architectural circles to despise Disney but applaud Las Vegas. This exhibition puts the spotlight on the latest American themed shopping malls. Yet what exactly is the difference between Disney and a plastic-looking magic grapevine at Ontario Mills in Los Angeles, with lipstick-coloured grapes and teardrop stools for children to sit on? Except that Disney does it better.

Not resolved here (though the book of the exhibition goes deeper) is just what sort of a mess some of these megalomaniac projects are making of the planet. Go to Macau. Around a peninsula that, a few years ago, was as verdant as the Cap d'Antibes they are



Shapes of things to come: models of the new Bankside Tate Gallery are included in Glasgow's *Vertigo* show of ten major projects around the world

simply tipping mountains into the sea, creating flat building land for rows of abysmal close-packed apartments that it would be an insult to call bar-block blocks. Here, alas, are the slums of tomorrow. Last summer, at the International Union of Architects, I heard furious German critics denounce Europe's top architects for happily designing China's new Utopias without a thought for

the hundreds of thousands of people who would be turned out of their homes for these new office developments.

By mounting such ambitious and thought-provoking shows, Glasgow's Festival of Architecture highlights London's dismal performance in this area. If the V&A wants to be taken seriously as the patron of new architecture (as the Libeskind Spiral suggests

it does) it should put on challenging exhibitions on the subject, like the campaigning heritage shows of the 1970s. So should the Royal Academy and even more the new Tate Gallery at Bankside.

● *Glasgow 1999 Information: 0141-287 1999. Frank Lloyd Wright is at Kelvingrove until April 11; Vertigo is at the Old Fruitmarket until May 16*

The burghers of Hampstead are up in arms about their local theatre's plans to expand. **Dalya Alberge reports**

Why must the show go on?

The Hampstead Theatre, the North London playhouse which has staged groundbreaking productions since the 1960s, is struggling off fierce public objections to its planned multi-million-pound expansion in Swiss Cottage, financed with government and National Lottery money. In a case that could have wide implications for other lottery projects, Hampstead residents do not want as much as £20 million spent on a redevelopment that could threaten local facilities.

What angers them is that green open space on a site roughly the size of a football pitch is being threatened. Their park may be small, they say, but it is still a place in which to breathe and where the elderly and mothers with prams can stroll. Furthermore, locals fear that an all-weather sports pitch, a chil-

dren's playground, a community centre and a street market will make way for a massively expanded theatre with little relevance for most people in the community.

Even some of those who enjoy theatre share this view, accepting that there must be priorities for local resources: for example, the onsite community centre — which caters for 50,000 people a year — receives just £800 in annual subsidy from the public purse. Camden council's planning approval ran into strong criticism when two councillors were found to be on the theatre board and to have voted for the plan despite being told by the council's legal advisers to stand aside.

James Williams, the Hampstead's general manager, says the 39-year-old building will not survive more than three years because it is "falling



Under fire: the 39-year-old Hampstead Theatre is falling apart, says its general manager

apart" from subsidence and wet and dry rot. Building a new construction on the same site is impossible, he argues, because it is too small to meet modern regulations. Expansion on a site containing the park and sports ground is the only option, he claims.

The theatre cannot say how much — except to the nearest

£10 million — the scheme could cost. The lottery has already awarded nearly £1 million to take the theatre "through to a design stage". The firm of architects selected has never built a theatre before, but the theatre says that the firm's approach was "compatible" with its Vision. Like the local council, it insists that

an alternative open space will be found.

The local community is less than convinced. John Breckon, the managing director of a City conference business, says that developers in the City have shown just how to tackle a limited space: "They dig down into the foundations and put up brilliant new buildings."

You can do a lot with the space you've got." Although a theatre-goer, he expresses concern that the proposals will put the new open space nearer to the congested main road.

Pauline Marriott, a retired training officer, fears that the proposed space will be highlighted by noise and fumes, while a paved area with a few planted trees will do little for the community. "The theatre will take up the better part of the site, destroying the children's playground, greenery and, worse still, the green outlook of elderly residents (in nearby sheltered housing), many of them housebound," she says.

Another resident says: "It's the cost that's so staggering. There's not exactly a shortage of theatres in London; we're within three miles of all the West End theatres. But there is a shortage of green space and sports grounds."

The theatre's claim that 60 per cent of the community favours the scheme is widely disputed. Diana Self, a retired business consultant, says that most of the 300 members of her residents' association objected to it, although they support a renovated theatre on its existing plot.

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical CDs, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S KREISLERIANA

Reviewed by **Iain Burnside**

"PLAY my *Kreisleriana* sometimes," Robert Schumann wrote to the 19-year-old Clara Wieck. "You'll find a wild, unbridled love there, together with your life and mine, and many of your glances."

Schumann pinched the title for these eight *Fantasies* from a writer close to his heart: E.T.A. Hoffmann, who had given the name to a collection of short stories dominated by a rampaging composer he called Johannes Kreisler. At 28 Schumann already had two fantasy personas of his own: dynamic Florestan and wistful Eschfus.

Welcoming Hoffmann's deranged Kapellmeister into the family of alter egos came quite naturally. While on one level *Kreisleriana* is Schumann's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, on another it is a love letter to Clara, the woman he was forbidden to see. "When you recognise yourself in my *Kreisleriana*," he told her, "you'll smile to yourself, a gentle, fond smile."

The challenge for interpreters of *Kreisleriana* is to

capture this private tenderness as well as the driven, demonic intensity that gallops by its side. Radu Lupu and Martha Argerich excel in the sinister nocturnal world that Schumann made his own. With his pearl-like beauty of sound, and the crystal clarity of his vision, Murray Perahia (*Sony Classical SK 62786, £15.99*) is a revelation in a different way, placing places *Kreisleriana* as an early Romantic masterpiece.

Earlier generations of pianists are strongly represented with Alfred Cortot, Wilhelm Kempff and two different recordings by Vladimir Horowitz. The recording that haunts me most, though, straddles old and new: the great Hungarian pianist Anna Fischer, recorded in 1964, captures Schumann's inner eloquence as memorably as the fire of his passion (EMI CZSS 68733-2, a two-CD set including Schubert, Beethoven and Bartók available only through EMI's Special Import Service). She may be less pianistically dazzling than some, but part of her achievement is to sound less like a pianist than a great conductor.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

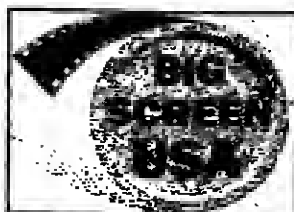
Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Handel's *Water Music*

De Niro's genius is as clear as Crystal

In *Analyze This* the great player of mobsters plays — surprise! — a mobster. Giles Whittell awards points

It's hard to know where to begin with Robert De Niro. The delft in his forehead that he seems to switch on and off with his eyebrows is one possibility. The beauty spot on his right cheek is another. The arched catfish mouth that means he's unhappy is yet another, and there is always his casual talent for inhabiting shiny suits.

But in the presence of the master a moment's seriousness is called for. The starting point for a ritual hagiography of the most talented actor of his generation must be the fact that he is merely an actor. Much as we would like him to be the actual face of organised crime (*The Godfather, Part II; The Untouchables; Goodfellas*), or of high-level political troubleshooting (*Wag the Dog*), or even of honest detective work (*Cop Land*), the deflating truth is that De Niro is only pretending. There is plenty of evidence that this make-believe is less of a stretch in his gangster films than in his others — he has done it well and often and, as a lifelong resident of New York's Little Italy, he bathes daily in its mutant vowels and antique priorities.



If so, his hilarious turn in *Analyze This* as a vexed Mob capo in search of a shrink must have been one of the easiest roles of his life. And yet no one else could have carried it off. He plays Paul Vitti, immaculate on the outside but crippled mentally by midlife anxiety attacks. Faced with a snivelling lowlife waiting to be dobered over the head with a lead pipe, he cannot bring himself to do it. Given a clear shot at a hitman who just tried to kill him, he cannot shoot. Humming grimly on top of his mistress in a hotel room, he cannot, as he puts it, "do this here". And watching a commercial about fatherly investment lapses, given the game he's in — one that tolerates not a whiff of weakness in a leader at the best of times. And these are



The charge of the heavy and the light brigades: Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal go successfully for laughs in *Analyze This*, the story of a Mafia boss who loses his love for being bad

not good, times. Brooklyn's crime families are circling each other nervously and "on top of everything else you've got these Chinese and these crazy Russians to deal with".

Vitti's saviour, and De Niro's foil, is the grey-bearded, silken-tongued Dr Ben Sobel, alias Billy Crystal. He bumps into Vitti's gang literally, rear-ending two of them in a traffic jam and getting off lightly in return for not notice-

ing a gagged body in their boot. Quicker than it takes to say "we know where your Mom lives", he is forced to take on an unwelcome new patient with the aim of making him "a happy, well-adjusted gangster". This proves hard. When told about Freud and the Oedipal myth, for instance, Vitti's first response is "Fucking Greeks".

The conceit in *Analyze This* is simple and not even origi-

nal: HBO has a hit TV series called *The Sopranos* running along the same hoodlums-in-therapy lines. But the execution is the best Hollywood can buy. De Niro brings to the part all the coiled intensity that emptied most journalists' cliché files years ago. He plays the whole thing as straight as his perfect nose and leaves the comedy entirely to timing. True, his performance zings with echoes of the unfunny

and very violent *Goodfellas*, but this only seems to crank it up tighter. What it amounts to, as Janet Maslin wrote in *The New York Times* (meaning it in the nicest possible way), is "one long wink at the viewer". Crystal resists the impulse to do much winking of his own. As a head doctor in constant dread of sleeping with the fishes he is, if anything, even more deadpan than De Niro. *An Entertainment Week-*

ly critic suggested Crystal was "awed by his formidable co-star" into an unusually controlled performance, which is typical of the churlish press that tends to follow Crystal like a shadow. He is almost always funny and almost always gets a bum rap, mainly because he makes it look too easy.

The laughs flow easily in *Analyze This*. The tricky part, plot-wise, is squeezing Vitti into Sobel's marriage schedule. It falls to *Friends* Lisa Kudrow to resist this as the doctor's exasperated fiancée, and even with a thin part she proves a cut above most sitcom graduates. Joe Viterelli, meanwhile, as a memorable blob-like enforcer called Jelly, extracts Kudrow's groom whenever his boss needs him. Thanks to Jelly, De Niro gets comfortable with words like "closure"

and Crystal does a bravura turn as a mobster, firing from the hip with enough wide-bore psychobabble to cow a barnful of his client's predatory rivals.

Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun Times*, America's most powerful critic, decided this film's secret star — the one who makes its comedy more than skin-deep — is actually Viterelli. Others paid tribute to its director, Harold Ramis, who was able to fine-tune the dialogue having been in psychotherapy for years himself.

But the truth is this is De Niro's film, in a different genre but also a different league from *Payback*, the ugly thriller starring Mel Gibson that is also now in wide release. Unlike Gibson's, De Niro's films have never earned huge sums. Indeed, his career box-office gross of \$912 million from 50 releases is considered meagre. After this all bets are off.

Nigel Cliff on the Danish film directors who have rewritten the rulebook

Dogma of the reigning cats

Here's a novel way to whip up publicity for your difficult low-budget movie. Issue a statement asserting that film is dead and you are its saviour. Attach a ten-point manifesto setting forth how things should really be done. Be very circumspect about how seriously you take it all. And, finally, come up with a couple of refreshingly original films which go on to win awards around the world.

For the past few months Thomas Vinterberg and Lars von Trier, the directors respectively of *Festen* (now on release) and *The Idiots* (out next month), have been leading the world a merry dance. No one has been quite sure just how seriously to take these two eminently plausible but — surely — slightly crazy Danes.

Their "Dogme 95" programme is a self-styled "rescue mission" for cinema which argues the virtues of no-frills film-making. Like an order of filmic Freemasons, its rituals include a Vow of Chastity, a Certificate of Compliance, a Confession of Transgressions



Thomas Vinterberg, rebel director of the hit *Festen*

and a Plea for Absolution. "The movie was dead and called for resurrection," intones the mission statement, dismissing the new wave as "a ripple that washed ashore and turned to muck" and the concept of the auteur as mere "bourgeois romanticism". In their place is a set of ten

rules which insists, in part, that all shooting must be done on location, with no brought-in props or sets; that the sound must be recorded along with the images; that only hand-held cameras are allowed; that the film must be in colour and that no special lighting can be used. To cap it all, the director must not be credited.

At first sight, trussing yourself up in ten inviolable commandments seems like an odd way to go about trying to break free from convention. At a press conference held at the Danish Embassy last November several reporters wondered why the Dogme manifesto was so — well, dogmatic. To Vinterberg's chagrin, even the director of the London Film Festival labelled the project "semi-absurd".

The brothers of the Dogme order (as they will insist on calling themselves) must be laughing up their sleeves. Of course the hyperbole is a bit of fun. "I swear as a director to refrain from personal taste," goes the creed. "I am no longer an artist." Fat chance. Vinterberg happily admits that both

Festen and *The Idiots* "became the most personal films we've done". His influences — Bergman, Coppola, Roeg — fairly jump off the screen. Moreover, he found that the rules gave his cast rather too much freedom. "They felt a bit insecure, so I had to invent other ways to limit them."

But underneath all the pomposity, there is much that is sensible about the movement. Its purpose, says Vinterberg, is simply to question the need for the vast paraphernalia that has grown up around directors, to avoid what he calls "autopilot film-making". If you want to get away from ingrained norms, he says sensibly, you have to give yourself a contrary set of rules.

It may all sound a bit Lud-dite, but it seems to have worked. The raw material of *Festen* — the tensions of a family gathering, the shocking revelation of abuse — are well served by the virtual absence of the usual post-production trickery and the confused, grainy intimacy recorded by the hand-held video camera.

Vinterberg claims that the other vows, too, were more liberating than restricting. The novel idea of bringing the camera to the actors rather than vice versa, he suggests, encouraged ensemble acting in place of set-piece grandstanding. "They had to act to each other and not to the camera," he says. He is right: watching this tortured celebration is uncomfortably akin to intruding on private grief.

But Vinterberg insists, the most important feature of Dogme films is that they are honest to what was shot, that they forge a sense of immediacy between actors and audience. "Movies have been cosmeticised to death," he contends. (He means this literally: the use of make-up is forbidden.) "Here, all that you see took place."

So what comes next? Inevitably, something completely different. "This whole project is about renewal. Making another Dogme film right afterwards would be very boring," Vinterberg says. Von Trier, too, has deserted the order to make a big-budget extravaganza starring the singer Björk. Definitely not a Dogme film — it even has a soundtrack.

Happily, though, there are others to carry the torch. As well as two other Danish directors, three new converts, one Swedish, one French and one American, have taken their vows. The founders now find themselves the proud possessors of an academy, ready to certify films for their Dogmeness. You sense they are pleasantly surprised.

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS

| | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1 | (1) <i>Analyze This</i> (Warner Bros) | \$17.7m |
| 2 | (2) <i>Grand International</i> (Columbia) | \$13.2m |
| 3 | (3) <i>Grand International</i> (Columbia) | \$7m/\$14.3m |
| 4 | (4) <i>The Other Sister</i> (Touchstone) | \$5.8m/\$8.6m |
| 5 | (5) <i>Payback</i> (Paramount) | \$4.1m/\$6.4m |
| 6 | (6) <i>October Sky</i> (Universal) | \$3.7m/\$12m |
| 7 | (7) <i>My Favorite Martian</i> (Warner) | \$3.6m/\$25.8m |
| 8 | (8) <i>Message in a Bottle</i> (Warner) | \$3.4m/\$41.3m |
| 9 | (9) <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> (Miramax) | \$3.4m/\$60.1m |
| 10 | (10) <i>She's All That</i> (Miramax) | \$2.6m/\$5.4m |

First amount is estimated weekend takings, Mar 5-7. Second amount is total takings to Mar 7. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

online forum www.enterprisenetwork.co.uk

HOW WILL THE BUDGET AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS?

Enterprise Network has a panel of experts on hand to answer your questions

Friday, March 12, from 10am-noon
online at www.enterprisenetwork.co.uk

PANEL

- PATRICK FOLEY, LBCS director of group, economic research
- IAIN STEWART, KPMG tax partner, corporate issues
- JOHN BATTERSBY, KPMG tax partner, personal issues
- DOUGLAS GODDEN, head of economic policy, CBI

Simply log on and join the discussion - your chance to ask the panel what you want to know



ENTERPRISE NETWORK IS OPERATED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

online forum www.enterprisenetwork.co.uk

Summer Festival

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Previews from 18 March Opens on 25 March

RSC

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Sponsored by ALLIED DOMESTIC

SWAN THEATRE

Volpone or The Fox

NEW JONSON

Previews from 18 March Opens on 24 March

THIS PRODUCTION IS SPONSORED BY THE FISH MERCHANTS

THE OTHER PLACE

World Premiere

Oroonoko

IN A NEW ADAPTATION BY RUTH DANIELS

Previews from 7 April Opens on 28 April

THIS PRODUCTION IS SPONSORED BY RSC PLAZA/AN COMPANY MEMBERS

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BOX OFFICE 01789 295623

DANCE

Darcey Bussell on the road

ARTS

CONCERTS

Rattle's millennial mission

Nicolette Jones finds out why Ottakar's chain of bookshops has signed up cartoonist Chris Burke to change the local face of its 63 branches

Cartoon king of a bookish Bohemia

If you go into an Ottakar's bookshop in Bury St Edmunds or Chelmsford, Portsmouth, Huddersfield or Carlisle, you will see around the shop several substantial murals of caricatured writers, drawn in the Searle/Scarfe/Steadman tradition. Faces you may or may not recognise range from Bill Bryson and Balzac to Patsy and Proust.

In each of these towns, the mural behind the till is a unique composition of local luminaries and places of interest, making the shop itself a place of artistic interest. All these works are by the hand of cartoonist Chris Burke, who has found in the bookshop chain (63 branches, all eventually to be adorned by his draughtsmanship) a patron which will offer an outlet for his work for years to come.

Ottakar's bookshops — located in towns rather than big cities — were founded ten years ago by James Heneage, whose father, Simon, happens to be a cartoon collector as well as the author of various dictionaries of cartoonists and the founder of the Cartoon Arts Trust. Simon owns Britain's largest collection of contemporary cartoons, and houses it in a barn beside his home in Somerset. Indeed, when James established his bookshop chain, he gave it a name he found in a cartoon strip reading Tintin in the bath, he found a reference to King Ottakar of Bohemia who, thanks to Heneage's careful research, really existed. As a consequence, Ottakar's celebrated its tenth birthday by taking its bookshop managers to Prague, the capital of Bohemia and birthplace of two kings called Ottakar. And Heneage's grateful staff presented him there with four first editions of Tintin.

It is not surprising, then, that when Ottakar's sought to rebrand the chain (which had hitherto operated as if it were a collection of independent shops, with a lot of decentralised power — still a strength) it crossed Heneage's mind to use a cartoonist to give the branch-

es a uniform look. While the common ground would be the cartoonist's style, each branch could have a custom-made work, and the artist, on principle, was to have a fairly free hand. There was a precedent for this: Oddbins off-licences had employed Ralph Steadman for some 15 years, and what suited the bibulous would, it was thought, suit the bibliophile.

The art director of Ottakar's original design company, DIN, found Burke in the Contact directory, which is to artists what *Spotlight* is to actors. When he and Heneage were introduced, they hit it off, and Burke had found his Lorenzo de Medici after 14 years of freelancing. It is a rare sinecure, Burke himself had worked briefly for a wine merchant, illustrating its catalogue, but he can think of no other comparable instances of commercial patronage.

When a company takes on an artist like this, you might expect the creative impulses to be subjugated to corporate interests. But Burke's heroes, notably Laurence and Daumier, worked to commissions. And he has found Ottakar's a benign patron, giving him more artistic freedom than he had when he worked for the press. He remembers, for instance, once being asked by a newspaper to make Jeffrey Archer "look less like a weasel" (Archer later bought the artwork of the revised version, and Burke, who only stuck on Archer's more charitable portrait with spray mount, fantasises that one day, in mid-dinner party, the revision will fall off, exposing the weaselly original to Archer and his guests).

Five themed murals have been produced for Ottakar's, and will be placed in part or in their entirety in a variety of shops. They group writers at a tea party, in a bar, on a farm, at a station (the travel writers), and in a witch's lair (the fantasists). Burke has a trick of fusing author and creation into one image, so that, for in-

stance, Mary Shelley is shown in his murals with Frankenstein's monster bolts through her own neck. Kafka is a beetle, Ted Hughes is a crow, Agatha Christie has been stabbed. Anne Rice is a vampire. Sometimes this device too-



Three of the murals Chris Burke has produced for Ottakar's bookshops (themselves named from the Tintin cartoon strip): above, *Tea on Lawn*; below, *Bar Flies* (left) and *Cauldron*



Bridge. He is also working on a mural for the children's sections (a priority in Ottakar's shops) and has drawn a machine for the Science Museum bookshop that recalls Heath Robinson — who is well represented in Simon Heneage's collection. Added to this, he is responsible for posters for special promotions, and 120 drawings for Christmas catalogues.

He will be busy for the foreseeable future. Only a select few will own a Burke that is not destined for a bookshop, among them the fellow cast members of any play performed in by Dawn French. She is a friend, and at the end of every play she commissions cast drawings by Burke as presents.

Burke also draws, gratis, the posters for French's husband Lenny Henry's charity work. "How much do you get for these pigs?" Burke asked Henry when he first got involved. "Nothing," said Henry. "Well, I'll take half of what you get," said Burke. Perhaps the benign patron is Burke's reward.

Star turns trip out of town

One of the benefits of the Royal Opera House's temporary closure has been the increased presence of the Royal Ballet in the regions. For two years in a row the company has mounted two Dance Bites tours, bringing star dancers and new ballets to provincial audiences. At the Corn Exchange in Cambridge on Thursday, two new works formed half of a programme that afforded plenty of dancing for some of the less familiar faces at the Royal Ballet, along with a showcase for two of Britain's most famous ballerinas.

For those who know Darcey Bussell only from television, here was a chance to see her on stage. Frederick Ashton's *Monotones*, a pair of serene trios set to Satie's *Trois Gnossiennes* and *Trois Gymnopédies*, seem to be all leg. And who better than Bussell, with her voluptuous extensions, to plunge into those almighty arabesques? But the ballet, made in the Sixties, is in desperate need of a redesign — even Bussell can't carry off such embarrassing costumes.

Far better to see her in Mark Baldwin's *Towards Poetry*. His new ballet for ten dancers, set to a difficult, spare score by Julian Anderson, is clearly enamoured of Bussell's unique talents but doesn't take them at face value.

Instead, Baldwin produces a ballet of real bite, with a sly



Bussell posing as the girl next door with a real mean streak. There is a lot of tension in Baldwin's showy choreography and a caty interplay between Bussell and her spirited opposition, Laura Morera. Deborah Bull, meanwhile, has the sexiest duet of the evening, a sultry dance coupling with Inaki Uribeaga called *Walk and Talk*, choreographed in 1990 by Ashley Page.

The other premiere is William Tuckett's *Love's Fool*, a sweet ballet with an attractive commissioned score from Karl Jenkins. A buttoned-up office manager cannot bring himself to declare his love for a typist. Enter a white-faced Stranger whose mission is to make love happen. Tuckett's choreography uses the fluidity of classical dance and overlays it with the physical bluntness of cartoons. Christopher Saunders is perfect as the boss; Zenaida Yanowsky, as the Girl, possesses a chaste glamour; and Luke Heydon's Stranger is a compassionate, sad-eyed angel.

DEBRA CRAINE

● This review appeared in some editions of The Times on Saturday

From painters to poets

If masterpieces are defined partly by their ability to stand the test of time, it is probably too early to tell what most of the great works of the 1980s will be. Only a few scores speak with the originality and authority to make such status instantly recognisable, but the range of music being covered in *Edge of a Dream... the 80s*, the latest instalment of the *Towards the Millennium* journey through 20th-century music, should help to make this sorting process clearer.

Saturday's programme by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the first concert of this Eighties jamboree, opened with a work that has "masterpiece" stamped all over it: Lutoslawski's Third Symphony. Simon Rattle, returning to his old orchestra, conducted with all his trademark energy to get playing of fluidity and tension, just what is needed in this luminous score.

From the short, sharp shock of the opening fanfare, a hammering that returns to punctuate the work's big moments, the piece unfolds with a mixture of intense calm and agitation. The symphony, pre-

It's not every concert that lends in hand-to-hand combat. But when the work being performed is Jonathan Harvey's mesmerising and rarely-heard *Bhakti* (1982), passions run high. As it begins, by nudging one pitch out of the ether, the smallest sound can introduce a jarring interval. But a hacking cough shattered its crystalline structure, and the offender's neighbours were not amused — and let him know it.

When every timbre is a revelation quiet is crucial and, cougher aside, the QEH audience maintained a breath-held stillness for the 50 minutes the work lasted. Its 12 sections,



miored in 1983, is structurally strong but packed full of murmuring detail. Tangential ideas streak off, only to be gathered in again.

Though the three movements run into each other, the solid serenity of the opening is very different from the vigour of the middle and its ferocious climax, and both contrast with the interweaving themes of the third movement that build towards ecstatic waves of sound.

Takemitsu's place in the pantheon of music is harder to assess, but there is no doubting the beauty of his images. In the guitar concerto *To the Edge of Dream*, also dating from 1983, his starting point was the surrealist painter Paul Delvaux, and the work conjures up vivid but fleeting images, as in a dream. John Williams

was the soloist, showing the most reflective side of his art.

As a companion piece, Takemitsu composed *Vers l'arc en ciel*, *Palma* for the CBO, and here it was joined by Williams again and by Christine Pendrill, the oboe d'amore soloist. Written in homage to Joan Miró and his homeland, the score has a warmth rare in Takemitsu.

Neither Lutoslawski nor Takemitsu are quintessential Eighties composers, but John Adams is, not least for the Post-Modernism of the diatonic renewal that began in such pieces as his *Harmonium* (1981). A new take on the old Romantic choral work, *Harmonium* sets, and sometimes breaks up, poems by John Donne and Emily Dickinson. With its hypnotic effects and pulsating climaxes it is a powerful score, but there are long-winded passages of the kind Adams has now left behind.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus was on splendid form, and Rattle's exuberance and charisma made this a performance of conviction.

JOHN ALLISON

— and instrumentalists. Vocals dominated, while strings and keyboards sounded thin and did not maintain impetus. The only whiff of the Eighties in this concert was the orchestra's gaudy waistcoats — looking like period pieces — a charge that cannot be made against either *Bhakti* nor *Tehilim*. Both hover somewhere in the past 40 years, high-points in the oeuvre of two composers whose spiritual conviction has brought a disciplined urgency to their work. But it is *Bhakti* which gives up its secrets more slowly, and which will have the longer life.

HELEN WALLACE

High in passion

each prefaced by a Sanskrit hymn, have a pitch centre around which harmonies float. There is a sense of leaping life and ever-widening vistas. A circular narrative moves from silence to delicate athleticism, rising finally to the transcendent "we have gone to the light". James Wood and the London Sinfonietta balanced analytical detail with palpable delight in this surprising, spiritually lofty masterpiece.

From the pacifist *Bhakti*, to Steve Reich's psalmic *Tehilim*, bright with opposing forces: day and night, speech and silence, good and evil, against the pattern of tambourine, hand-clapping, maracas and grounding harmony. In this performance there was an imbalance between the voices — sung by the excellent quartet Synergy

Well-mannered intensity

A recital by the Emerson String Quartet is always a special event, but their appearance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday night was notable in two very visible ways. First, the two violinists alternated, so that Philip Setzer led for a Mozart quartet, while Eugene Drucker led for a Sibelius and Schubert. Second, the violist, Lawrence Dutton, sat on the extreme right, where you normally expect the cellist to be.

The combined result was of greater than usual projection of the players individually, partly because switching leader keeps everybody on their toes, and partly because the viola's proximity to the audience aids audibility, while David Finkel's big cello tone comes through easily anyway. In Mozart's D Major Quartet, K575, dedicated to the cello-loving King of Prussia, the composer gave the cello part a natural prominence. Finkel rose splendidly to the challenge, raising his voice eloquently above conversational level when required. It was, nevertheless, an impeccably mannered account by the ensemble: elegant phrasing and subtly voiced.

The Sibelius Quartet in D Minor, subtitled *Voces Intimae*, also offers an element of foreboding. The rushing figures and ostinati familiar from Sibelius's symphonic works make their presence felt, especially in the first and

last movements, the end of the latter generating a momentum of great force from these players. The fleet movement of the first of the Scherzos was also impressively delivered, not least in the precision of the silences that interrupt the torrent of notes. The central Adagio was the still heart of the work, its last chord tailing movingly into oblivion.

Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* Quartet neatly combined Mozartian manners and Sibelian intensity. The Emerson's approach is not demonstrative or histrionic, and the obsessiveness of the work is projected by rhythmic means rather than dynamic. This ensemble is also able to draw on a remarkable range of tone colour with a spectral quality exploited particularly tellingly in the slow movement (Death addressing the Maiden in the original Schubert song). A more ethereal tone was found for the fourth, major-key variation, which captured the fragility of this celestial vision. Then came the dance of death finale, its coda not so much a race to the finish as a headlong rush to the abyss.

BARRY MILLINGTON

JAZZ

Back to Nigerian roots

ARTS

Another kettle of fish entirely

When dramatists play tricks with form, grammar and the forward march of time, the result generally feels like following a guide into the Sahara and expiring there from lack of dates. Not so with the astonishing Caryl Churchill, whose diptych of short plays, buoyantly directed by Max Stafford-Clark for Out of Joint, marks the end of its world tour with 20 London performances.

In *Heart's Desire* her characters are trapped in a loop of time, repeating their opening words but darting off down scores of alleys, all of which



Getting the bird: June Watson, Mary Macleod and Bernard Gallagher in *Heart's Desire*, the first of the two Caryl Churchill plays in *Blue Heart*

lead to dead ends. In the second play the words "blue" and "kettle" increasingly replace ordinary words in the dialogue ("I don't kettle what to blue") until at the end no others are being spoken. Naturally this play is called *Blue Kettle*.

Both plays take us towards dark areas of family discontent, but the risk of aridity is reduced to zero by Churchill's inventive wit. What emerges in the first is a father's inchoate feelings for his daughter, absent in Australia these many years but due back any moment. He, his wife and a faintly doty sister wait for the doorbell to ring, returning a score of times to the same stretch of barbed domestic chat-chat, until we come to see these variants as some of the fears and fantasies that come to us all while waiting.

Watching Bernard Gallagher, June Watson and Mary Macleod meticulously repeat the same routines of laying outlery on the table, opening the

fridge, patting hair, becomes a source of increasing mirth — and the swift removal of the clutter to restart the scenes becomes just as mirthful — but these "safe" runs of behaviour lead to irrational climaxes that take your breath away. The doors of the kitchen units open

and a dozen children scamper out, the doorbell rings and an ostrich prances in. The dialogue loops are gabbled at quick time or reduced to the opening or closing words of the lines. What is in essence a simple, not to say banal, situation has been dramatised into

a revelation of indecision and panic. In *Blue Kettle* Pearce Quigley plays a shifty-eyed woman who hopes to make money by deluding women whose babies were adopted that they are their long-lost son. But he is also doing it to find substitutes

for his own, somehow unsatisfactory mother? We are free to think so, as we follow the responses of the elderly women he meets, among whom is a grandly blunt, Dorothy L. Sayers-like Anna Wing. I am not certain why it is that "blue" and "kettle" swal-

low everything. Perhaps it is a metaphor for evasion of feeling. But the astonishing effect of distancing us from the reality is to make us attend to its essence more closely, if you blue what I kettle.

JEREMY KINGSTON

To a Yoruba heartbeat

One of the many roots of jazz — some would claim the most important — can be traced back to the Yoruba culture of Nigeria. And Kevin Haynes's Groupo Elegua was formed in 1992 to explore the connection. Haynes — a percussionist and dancer turned saxophonist — travels frequently to Cuba, where the Yoruba religion, ifa, still flourishes, and the tangible results of his studies, three *Bata* drums, lie at the heart of his band's music.

Beginning their set with an invocatory chant to Elegua — guardian of the crossroads, symbol of balance — set to the rhythmic throb of these drums, Haynes's band are clearly wholeheartedly committed to acknowledging and utilising the African source of their music. Previous travellers along this path, of course,

brought an entirely unexpected texture into the mix, and his routing yet tuneful solo provided some of the music's most memorable moments. More bopish fare — a quicksilver tune called *Snap Shot* — followed. Haynes's tart alto slithering over Watkins's clipped piano chords and Daniel Crosby's neatly tumbling drums. But it was with more changing to *Bata* drum accompaniment that Groupo Elegua concluded their performance.

Although no whiff of didacticism is discernible in their music, Haynes's band somehow contrive to be both thought-provoking and entertaining — even danceable — and their brand of deeply-felt, multi-textured, punchily percussive jazz demands to be more widely heard.

CHRIS PARKER

Pair of raunch hands

When Debby Bishop and Kate Harbour unveiled their two-hour *Cissie's Sal*, a fast-moving celebration of the art of the gold-digger which offered an excellent excuse to re-prise songs of the calibre of *Un-decided* and *Fever*. Bishop, a star of *Blues In The Night* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, knows this territory intimately. She and the effervescent Harbour swooped onto the stage like a latterday pairing of Jane Russell and Mar-

lyn Monroe, though equipped with a raunchier line in humour than you will ever see in any Technicolor musical. There was no shortage of double entendres about keys and keyboards. The breathless storyline, leaping from a hotel bedroom to a nightclub, was lit with a hot iron. Bishop and Harbour injected raw energy and humour into the songs, occasionally vamping it up among the audience. The season's musical director, pianist Warren Hills, led a discreet trio which conjured up the louche atmosphere of a Cotton Club in W1. It was not all played for laughs. Bishop delivered a passionate version of Duke Ellington's *I've Got It Bad And That Ain't Good*. Harbour joined her for a moving duet on *Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out*. Singer Christina Collier takes over next Sunday.

CLIVE DAVIS

LISTINGS

Keith Waterhouse's latest

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

LONDON

SPEER: Klaus Maria Brandauer directs and plays the title role of Hitler's master architect in *Evil's Masterpiece*. With Sven Eric Beckholt. Almeida (0171-358 4404). Opens tonight, 7pm.

20TH-CENTURY MUSIC: Harrison Birtwistle selects three of his own works — one a world premiere — for this concert by the Nash Ensemble when the composer and Nicholas Kok take turns on the podium. Also featured is the first performance of a new version of Debussy's *Tristane polmes de Malarme*. Purcell Room (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

NO EXP. RECD: Simon Black's new play is a black comedy where two teenage cartoonists are set the task of painting 100 pictures in five days. Part of the Small Drop of H.A.A.C. season. (Expendable (0171-722 8301). £5. Preview from tonight, 8pm.

ON THE ROAD TO BASHAD: Green Candle Dance Company's in-the-round staging of this tale set in the ancient East uses dance, theatre, music and circus acts. Fergus Early directs and choreographs a company of 50. Sadler's Wells (0171-713 8000). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

ELSEWHERE

CHESTER: Dennis Waterman and Patrick Mower play two cowboys whose lives unravel in Keith Waterhouse's new comedy, *Blind Gang*. With Steven Berkoff. Gaiety Theatre (01772 258888). Tonight, 7.45pm.

PRESTON: The fine artist Raphael Wallfish joins the RLPO in Preston. The orchestra performs a performance of Edouard Lalo's *Homeric oboe concerto*. This is framed by Schubert's *The Swan of Lunenburg* and Rachmaninov's *Second Symphony*. Peter Albrecht conducts. Gaiety Theatre (01772 258888). Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ■ Some seats available ■ Seats at all prices

■ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material, new costumes as well as his unforgettable *Slava*. Pictured Theatre (0171-369 1734).

■ **THREE DAYS OF RAIN:** Elizabeth McGovern heads the cast of Richard Greenberg's play, a hit at the Manhattan Theatre Club last year. Robin Lawford directs this journey back to 1980. Donmar Warehouse (0171-369 1732).

■ **BLUE HEART:** Caryl Churchill's play of plays (*Heart's Desire* and *Blue Kettle*) explores family dislocation through time with words. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out of Joint. Sadler's Wells (0171-713 8000). Preview tonight, 8pm.

■ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dungey play the superstitious thane and his mistress in John Crowley's production. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

■ **THE WAY OF THE WORLD:** San Waters directs his repertory company in Congreve's matchless comedy of manners. Orange Tree (0181-940 3633). £5.

■ **BARTHOLOMEW FAIR:** Laurence Bonavia's play production of Ben Jonson's farcical comedy transfers from Stratford. Young Vic (0171-928 6363). £5.

■ **SHOCKHEAD PETER:** The Schoenman is back with a new production of the play by the Tigris Lilies and Marilyn Lyric (0181-741 8701). £5.

■ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Lillo makes his West End debut in Rob Bunker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves. Apollo (0171-494 5070).

■ **COPELAND:** Hosenberg mysteriously calls on Nicky Bork in a new production. Michael Foy's play transfers to the West End. Michael Beaumont directs. Duchess (0171-494 5075).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

BELIEVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by poltergeists, lycans, mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme falls, however, to get inside the inspiring heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner.

FESTIN (15): Thomas Vinterberg's biting black, Danish farce features a disastrous family reunion. Shot with hand-held cameras, it manages to look spontaneous, gleefully, and deliciously voyeuristic.

KINI & ADAMS (15): Kidz On! director's African buddy movie is a mostly endearing parable about two friends who share a dream but fall out over money. Good acting like it out of the puppets.

THE 39 STEPS (15): Hitchcock's witty take on Buchan's rapping yarn is full of fabulous set pieces. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes across Scotland pursued by scampering police and ruthless spies.

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. With Sean Penn and Nick Nolte.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet.

TITANIC TOWN (15): Julia Watson excels as a pugnacious Catholic housewife in this grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

URBAN LEGEND (15): Don Jones. Blanks honor lick that slashes through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing octopus.

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's brutal portrait of a frustrated small-town cop. Nick Nolte and Gene Hackman put in powerful performances as father and son caught in a cycle of trauma.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (15): David Hines's buzzy comedy charts the mess as Camden Town meets make of their love lives among the junk stalls.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thrilling romantic comedy with a cracking script by Mark Monaghan and director John Madden directs.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 3300 (24h)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

THEATRES

ALICE
 0171 369 1734 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

CHICAGO
 0171 494 5070 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

ENTERTAINMENTS

To advertise in this section
 Tel: 0171 680 6222
 Fax: 0171 782 7930

THEATRES

ALMEIDA AT THE ALBERT
 0171 358 4404 (24h)
Evil's Masterpiece
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
 0171 369 1734 (24h)
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

THE WOMAN IN BLACK
 0171 369 1734 (24h)
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

ENTERTAINMENTS

To advertise in this section
 Tel: 0171 680 6222
 Fax: 0171 782 7930

THEATRES

ALICE
 0171 369 1734 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

CHICAGO
 0171 494 5070 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

ENTERTAINMENTS

To advertise in this section
 Tel: 0171 680 6222
 Fax: 0171 782 7930

THEATRES

ALICE
 0171 369 1734 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

CHICAGO
 0171 494 5070 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

ENTERTAINMENTS

To advertise in this section
 Tel: 0171 680 6222
 Fax: 0171 782 7930

THEATRES

ALICE
 0171 369 1734 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

CHICAGO
 0171 494 5070 (24h)
THE TWO FOSTERS LA TRUCCA
 Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm

ENTERTAINMENTS

To advertise in this section
 Tel: 0171 680 6222
 Fax: 0171 782 7930

MESSIAH

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

2.30pm Good Friday April 2nd

The Royal Choral Society presents Handel's great masterpiece — the traditional start to Easter since 1878.

ORCHESTRA: The Brandenburg Concert
 SOLOISTS: Emma Chilvers, Justin Lewis, Jeremy White
 CONDUCTOR: RICHARD COOKE

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
 Tickets £18.00 - £25.00
 Tel: 0171 589 8212

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY
 London's Premier Choir

ENTERTAINMENTS LISTINGS

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION PLEASE:

Telephone 0171 680 6222
 Fax 0171 782 7930
 Email: tl.enlts@newsint.co.uk

A Budget for kids, or child's play?

Stand by today for another exhibition of playground politics

What is a Budget for children? Is it one that encourages us to procure, perhaps by removing VAT from Spanish Fly or allowing the NHS to distribute Viagra with the same airy nonchalance as it now hands out contraceptives? Or is it one which allows Gordon the Godfather to indulge paternal feelings which his political career has, so far, prevented him from enjoying?

Are the nation's little ones to find that Christmas has come early and the latest Tomb Raider software is to be sent to every household along with an explanation of the Budget package?

The precise nature of what Mr Brown means by a Budget for the kiddies will have to wait until he opens his red box this afternoon, although one could wallpaper Dorneywood with the leaks so far. Looking, however, at the Chancellor's previous Budgets, they are all, in a sense, for children. Mr Brown treats the voters like kids. He asks us to believe he is not, by instinct, a tax-raising Chancellor, and yet he has already increased expenditure in this Parliament by £40 billion. Like the Tooth Fairy in reverse, Mr Brown takes away money while he hopes we're sleeping and trusts we will not notice.

The Chancellor's child-centred approach to Budget statements relies on his audience being insufficiently cynical to appreciate the audacity of his myth-making. He presumes upon our innocent faith that what we see in the headlines is what we will get in our tax bills. But Mr Brown flatters the press in order to deceive the taxpayer.

He does so by using three tactics. They are applied daily in the nation's playgrounds. The first is the bully's gracious mercy, the second the boaster's grandiose gesture and the third the pickpocket's stealthy grab. We have been treated to the bully's gracious mercy over the past week. The Chancellor had let it be known that he was considering the taxation of child benefit and a reduction in the married couple's tax allowance. Having thus made middle-class flesh creep, the Treasury then signalled to the press that a reprieve was on the way. In order to avoid "alienating Middle England", any change would be delayed. If the Chancellor does, indeed, forbear to hit thousands of families in the manner advertised, we will be invited to applaud his tender concern. But it is the tender concern of the thug who, after having placed his fist under your chin and then extended his free hand for your wallet, feels moved to desist.

The boaster's grandiose gesture is a technique not restricted to the Treasury. The competition for biggest boaster in the Cabinet is almost as fierce as that for places in Kathryn Blair's secondary school. Robin Cook has a decent claim to the title, with a proudly trumpeted ethical dimension to foreign policy which amounts to giving leaks from select committees to his aides, rather than reading them himself. But, as so often in the past,

Robin is beaten to the prize by Gordon Brown.

In his pre-Budget leaking, the Chancellor has tried to pose not just as the saviour of the British economy, but the Earth itself. Gordon went Green at the weekend with a proposal to put the environment first. The big idea for our little planet? A lower road tax for smaller cars. By knocking £50 off the price of a tax disc for economical motors, the Chancellor apparently hoped that polluters would trade in their petrol-guzzling Benleys for Fiat Unos. Mr Brown is addicted to these little bribes for grand reasons. From tax breaks for research and development to the Working Families Tax Credit, little fiscal fiddles are given Capital Letters and a New Era of Social Justice has been inaugurated. My press release is bigger than your press release. This schoolyard boasting is entirely of a piece with a broader strategy of treating voters as children. Do as you're told, and there's a sweetie for you.

It is when it comes to tax rates overall that Gordon's third playground technique comes into play: the pickpocket's stealthy grab. The Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, has drawn detailed attention to the "stealth taxes" by which Mr Brown has lined his own pockets after dipping into ours. But don't just take Mr Maude's word for it. The Labour MP Rhodri Morgan, speaking on BBC TV's *The Record* at the weekend, let the cat out of the bag and then explained how skillfully the Chancellor had skinned it. He was perfectly happy with taxation by stealth. "It's not duplicitous," he maintained. "It means you don't make a virtue out of telling people that you've raised their taxes. If they don't notice, then all credit to you." It is the redistribution not so much of Robin Hood as the Artful Dodger.

Mr Brown may try another grab today. Like any successful pickpocket he will stage a diversion, possibly by announcing a new starting rate for income tax at 10p in the pound. But while we stare rapt at this trickiness we will be gently relieved of our mortgage tax relief, future inheritances and other allowances.

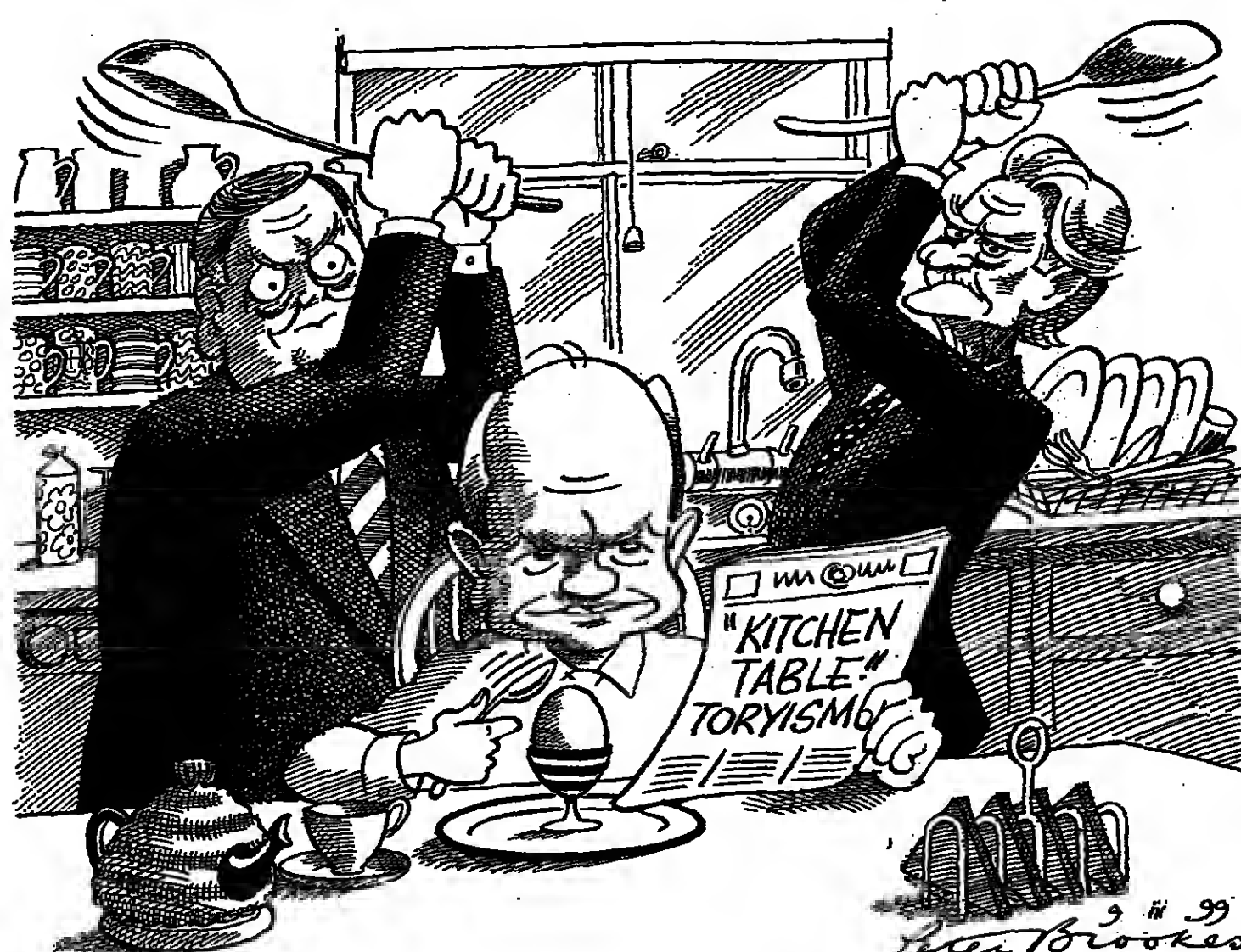
Disappearing along with our earnings is any notion that the Treasury should treat us like adults. Families and firms should not be bribed through the tax system to act in what the Chancellor considers to be their best interest. What industrial expertise, after all, does Gordon Brown bring to bear when he rigs the tax system to cajole companies into spending a state-approved amount on research and development? I don't want a Budget for grown-ups. One that allows voters and companies to keep as much of their money as possible and do with it what they like, not the State, consider right. But instead of an adult approach to economics all we have is Gordon Brown proclaiming: "Suffer the little children." And we will.

Disappearing along with our earnings is any notion that the Treasury should treat us like adults. Families and firms should not be bribed through the tax system to act in what the Chancellor considers to be their best interest. What industrial expertise, after all, does Gordon Brown bring to bear when he rigs the tax system to cajole companies into spending a state-approved amount on research and development? I don't want a Budget for grown-ups. One that allows voters and companies to keep as much of their money as possible and do with it what they like, not the State, consider right. But instead of an adult approach to economics all we have is Gordon Brown proclaiming: "Suffer the little children." And we will.

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



Michael Gove



This harvest of greed

Bananas are a joke only when your entire society is not in peril

One of the irritations of being a subsistence farmer or fisherman is having your product sniggered at by rich, distant urbanites. They giggle about haddock, or fiddler-beet, or pigs, or bananas, while you and your children those hilarious items make the difference between a respectable life and misery. So stop the banana jokes. We have had the headlines about banana skins and banana splits, the arch stuff about aphrodisiacs and Eurocrats going bananas. It gets less funny by the minute. Try, rather, to see the old comedian's prop as a symbol of hope, self-respect, justice, life itself.

For that is what it is, if you are trying to live off five or ten acres of banana trees on an island in the Caribbean: a place where your ancestors were brought in chains and whose small territory now represents the only place in the world where you and your children have an unquestioned right to live. From that perspective, the current banana trade war is not a joke.

Nor, with respect to many commentators, is it an occasion for legalistic chag over which protagonist — the EU or the US — is most in breach of World Trade Organisation rules. It looks as if they both are. The EU has adopted its all-too-familiar role of global bully. But at least the EU nations have been devious and dilatory because they are trying to behave ethically. The Americans are just in it for the money. Big companies such as Chiquita want to force a monopoly, and the Clinton Administration wants Chiquita to go on footing Democrat campaign bills. Both sides may be out of step legally, but at least the European nations have human justice on their minds.

Justice can sometimes be above law. When Lord Denning died last week, much was made of the nerve he showed in habitually saying just that. In obituaries we heard his voice again, denying bending the law but twinklingly admitting to "developing" it. In a legalistic, fearful and untrusting world, his is a difficult vision to maintain, but it is worth trying. In this banana dispute America is attempting to use international law to force a despicable moral injustice.

Consider the case. Every year, Europe imports 3.9 million tonnes of bananas. Two thirds come from

plantations, mainly in South America, controlled by a few big American corporations. African, Caribbean and Pacific countries — which between them send the other third — are given preferential treatment over tariffs. Many of them are former European colonies; moreover, they operate small-scale farms, where the cost of unmechanised harvesting is almost three times that of a hi-tech Ecuadorian "dollar plantation".

The American companies, however, claim that they are "losing" up to \$520 million a year by not being able to push their intensive product even further into the European market. It sounds a lot, but considering that even one of the companies — Chiquita — is a fourteen-billion-dollar outfit, it is evident that the difference they hope to make to their own profits is not a matter of life and death to them.

Assisted by illegal and high-handed sanctions from the American Administration, they might get their way. President Clinton seems anxious to help them, and strangely unembarrassed by the fact that they pay so much money to his party (America lodged its latest complaint about the banana regime within 24 hours of the Democrat cause receiving a fresh half-million dollar cheque from Chiquita). If the big boys do win, EU supermarkets will allow themselves to be flooded by the fruit to which the all-powerful Man from Del Monte (or Chiquita, or Dole) has said yes. The Caribbean farmers in particular, although they have only 9 per cent of the European market, will simply be ruined: the fragile societies they hold up will either collapse into lawlessness and the drug trade, or be held even more to ransom by the almost equally ruthless operators of the tourist industry.

The EU ministers know this, which is why they have kept ducking the issue. It is callous to say smoothly, as one leader did, that "Rules, unlike bananas, may not be bent if global trade is to thrive". Phooey. Some rules have to be bent, or as Denning would say "developed", in the interests of a just and peaceful world. Europe is historically the parent of most of these countries. It cannot shake off its relationship with them.

The EU governments, not least our own, should not unapologetically make it clear to America — which preens itself on being global policeman and guardian of righteousness — that we too have moral duties in the world, and take them seriously.

The American reply is that if Europe wants to help the Caribbean it should do it through aid. Rubbish. Aid is nowhere near as beneficial to a society and economy as respectable trade. Small banana plantations — of a kind multinationals call

"inefficient" — create employment and self-respect and contribute immeasurably more to a small country than any amount of foreign aid with all the usual greasy strings attached. Another reply is that Caribbean islands should concentrate on the tourist trade. Why? Tourism in poor regions gets controlled largely by foreign companies, who siphon the profits overseas. All the locals get are low-paid jobs; fine for some, but for others there will always be more fulfillment in harvesting real food for real export than in picking up tourists' discarded swimsuits from chalet floors.

Even self-interest should warn America not to play this game. At the weekend Caricom, the regional trade group for the Caribbean, issued a retaliatory threat. Its 15 members are reconsidering their

agreement with the US drugs enforcement agencies. These have hitherto been, rather reluctantly, allowed to chase suspected traffickers into the territorial waters of these islands. Now Caricom gives warning that this permission may be withdrawn. Considering how easy it already is for drug smugglers to lose their pursuers among the reefs and islets of the region, the threat is a serious one. But for the islanders it would be a bitter, tragic revenge to create safe havens for the world's most ruthless criminals. The last thing any Caribbean island needs is to import the violence and degradation of that trade to wreck its society and tourism alike.

Justice, fairness, mutual global responsibility should outweigh lumbering regulation. Chiquita and the rest do not depend desperately on that last little slice of the European market: the Caribbean producers do. If the big producers can sleep easy at night after fighting this ignoble cause by day, the same should not be true of responsible world leaders — least of all those who are in the habit of going to Prayer Breakfasts and talking glibly of sin.

I leave you with the words of the Hon Allen Alpin, Minister of Foreign Affairs for St Vincent and the Grenadines, a volcanic, mountainous chain of islands with negligible natural resources. Its economy is slowing after 20 years' independence. The threat of losing the EU protection is worse, says the local newspaper, than La Soufriere volcano. Mr Alpin says: "The recent WTO ruling has left us dazed and helpless. The concept of every man being his brother's keeper has been shattered. Can we survive? Would our cries for help go unheeded? What about neighbours? Are they deaf or uncaring? I know it now: money and greed have been elevated to the status of a religion, and care and concern are now regarded as a vice. Our future is now on a life-support system. However, I am confident that our resourcefulness and faith will see us through."

Only the last sentence rings hollow, but politicians have to say the upbeat thing. Myself, I predict that no resourcefulness or faith will save this David if Goliath gets his way. Meanwhile, I read the labels on bananas with more than usual care. Corruption leaves a nasty taste.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Libby Purves

'There is more to it than racism — the police have been deliberately kept in a state of infantilism by the Home Office'

Tessa Keswick

What is wrong with the police? Since the Lawrence tragedy almost daily revelations underline problems relating not only to racism but to the culture, competence and accountability of this important public service. Why are you more than twice as likely to have your car stolen in Britain than in America, and why are you more than twice as likely to have your house burgled?

It is astonishing that so few of us expect the police to solve the crime, or hope to retrieve our precious possessions. The clear-up rate of indictable offences in Britain for each of our 127,000 policemen is ten cases a year — out of possibly more than 50 million crimes. With such a pathetic performance, would you not expect the police and the Home Secretary to be called to account?

The explanations for this are

numerous but if you go for a briefing to a local police headquarters, say in Andover, Peckham, or Guildford, as I have done with a former Home Secretary, the police will tell you they know exactly who the offenders are. They know the housing estates, the families, the thugs and the yobs.

The police know a huge amount and they could know everything. But mention arrests and you will be given a variety of excuses: "We could pick them up, easy, if it was worth it, what with the paperwork and all, and the courts just letting the criminals off with a caution, and the shortage of staff."

As you drink tea and munch biscuits in Peckham headquarters with enormous policemen, you will be proudly shown, on video, pushers selling drugs in Peckham High Street — as they apparently do every day. Why

aren't they arrested? "Oh, we can't do that, you know — regulations — we have to wait for the Drugs Squad." This unit will visit, on request, from the Met in about three months' time. You will also be shown the new, politically correct units manned by specialists 24 hours a day for battered and raped women, abused grannies and children and motoring offences.

Police morale plummeted in the early 1980s when the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill rightly hardened the evidence required for conviction and sought to protect the rights of suspects. But, over the years, a nervous Home Office, in the absence of reliable police management, has continued to pile paperwork on a hard-pressed service. Scores of performance indicators have en-

sured that a host of different duties, apart from solving crime, are required from the police. In the 1990s the Conservatives attempted to loosen the umbilical cord linking the service to the Home Office by devolving power to the chief constables and making the solving of crime a priority. Targets were introduced and clear-up rates made explicit. But scores of daily "performance indicators" setting out centralised police duties required by the Home Office and the Police Inspectorate remained intact. These range from monitoring petty motoring offences to helping old ladies across the street and rescuing cats out of trees. A favourite requires the conduct of questionnaires with the public to establish police popularity levels. Solving crime still takes up less

than 20 per cent of a policeman's daily routine.

Over the years, fundamental changes have been considered — including an independent Police Inspectorate ensuring greater accountability and, to inspire better management, the introduction of an officer class drawn from university-educated professionals (possibly ex-Army) to prevent the dreaded canteen culture rising through the ranks.

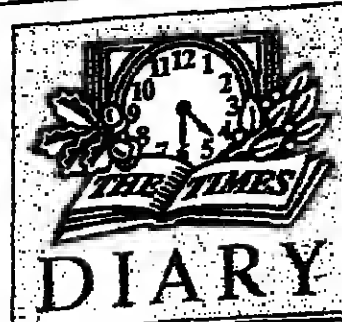
To combat rising crime, the separation of traffic duty and car crime to a less professional force was considered, together with a reduction in the number of "social duties" required. The introduction of performance-related pay was suggested. These useful initiatives, which should be revisited, were resisted by politicians, the Home Office or the police themselves.

The police do a difficult job but they display all the hallmarks of a badly led, closed, public sector organisation. The setting up of the Violent Crimes Task Force addresses only part of the problem. There is more to it than racism — the police have been deliberately kept in a state of infantilism by the Home Office, and have accepted this in exchange for flawed management structures and weak accountability.

In America, the public became so angry with rising crime that in the past 15 years it has dropped by half. We can do the same. The Home Secretary should grasp the problems of the management of the police force as a whole with honesty and realism — both sides would greatly benefit.

The author is Director of the Centre for Policy Studies

comment@the-times.co.uk



High jinks

MONICA LEWINSKY is taking her seat at High Table. The Fellows of All Souls, Oxford, have asked her to dinner on Thursday. After signing copies of her little treatise locally. From the college, Oxford's most self-regarding cerebral (it doesn't bother with students), she can gaze lovingly at University College, her ex's old playpen.

Fellows Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone and William Waldegrave find themselves strangely engaged. "I wish her a pleasant evening," stutters John Redwood, legs crossed. Sir Crispin Tickell sniffs: "One wonders what sort of a dinner guest someone like that would be, really." Ms Lewinsky was due last night, sparking a stampede by active Fellows. After the publicity tour dates were jiggled, dinner was switched to Thursday — leading to a strange cancellation of seats for last night.

VANESSA FELTZ struggles to live down the great genetically modified guest scandal. She inquired if Kate Adie would go on to discuss International Women's Day. Came the response: "Who would you like her to be?"

■ BIANCA, alias Patsy Palmer (below left), the important thespian, is set to play Eliza Doolittle in a remake of *My Fair Lady*, first played by Audrey Hepburn (right) in the cinematic treatment of *Pygmalion*. "I can really see myself



getting turned into this amazing woman," the 26-year-old East-End-er tells me. "It's a part I was born to play." Producers believe she can master Doolittle's wit, but worry about that testing line: "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain."

SUPERWAIF Jodie Kidd discloses how her poor background saddled her and her siblings with the initial "J". "It was thought sensible that my brother James, sister Emma and I have names with J as horse blankets and boxes are so expensive to have embroidered and repainted."

■ UGLY faces north of the border. Alex Salmond's enemies have set up an Internet site, featuring the grinning SNP chief, and are invited to "improve his image" by rearranging his face into grotesque forms. Willie Dunn, the Scottish Labourite behind the wheeze, says: "I don't think he will mind — it's politics." Salmond brain-dead, I suppose it is reduced to sticking pins in pictures of people. "I trust the browser who signed off 'Donald Dewar' is not related to the Scottish Secretary."

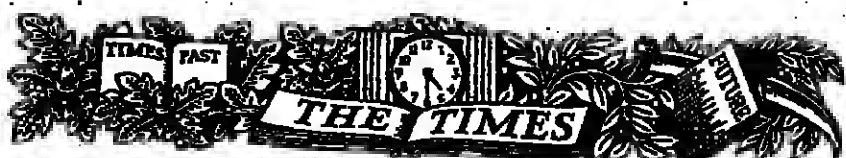


NEW YORK'S most voracious catfancier is coming to town. Studio 54, famed for its selective admissions policy (Andy Warhol and Mick Jagger are among the creatures who struggled to get past its notorious red rope), has won a licence to open in St Martin's Lane — 100 yards from the master meat packer, Peter Stringfellow.

■ CHARLIE WHELAN has had second thoughts about publishing his memoirs. The chief body-burier to Gordon Brown, brought down over the Peter Mandelson loan scandal, was offered £500,000 to tell all in a book about his erstwhile boss. But he has now discovered discretion. "I didn't spend ten years hard labour creating a Government to knock it down," he growls.

PECULIAR that after Tony Blair publicly pledged to support Comic Relief and was given a free car Red Nose, his PMobile is noseless. I am assured that he's stuck it on "one of the family's other cars". Most charitable, I'm sure.

JASPER GERARD



THE SECOND TEST

Can the eurozone become a flexible marketplace for jobs?

A single currency, Tony Blair told the House of Commons last month, will not make Europe prosperous, but EMU "plus fundamental reform in labour, capital and product markets and in our welfare systems can do so". Maybe. But prosperity of this kind would also spring from those reforms without British membership of EMU. The implication that EMU is a necessary ingredient of success awaits, to put it very modestly, a firm degree of proof.

The United States has witnessed the creation of 13.5 million jobs since 1992: to some this might seem to help the case for a single currency. But, equally, since Britain was forced out of the ERM in 1992 and floated sterling, it has created more jobs than the rest of the eurozone put together. Unemployment is 4.5 per cent in the US, 6.2 per cent in Britain and 11 per cent across euroland.

The reasons why much of Europe continues to shed jobs, while America is creating a quarter of a million a month, are not far to seek. Employment in small and medium American enterprises is booming, thanks to a venture capital market which is ten times that of the EU's in terms of respective GDPs. Since Britain accounts for half the EU's venture capital investment, the real gap is wider still. The EU "social market", by contrast, continues to rely heavily on state intervention to create employment. Labour mobility is high in the US; in the EU, by contrast, only 1.7 per cent of those employed work outside their own country.

Is this culture changing? In EU councils, ministers acknowledge the need to liberalise labour markets and cut non-wage costs to price people into jobs; but, led by France and now Germany, most of the socialist majorities at the eurozone's core are heading in the opposite direction, intensifying labour market rigidities with mandatory cuts in working hours and overtime, job creation schemes that swell already oversized public sector payrolls, and state subsidies and tax breaks for private sector employers who take on the unemployed.

Such approaches have been considerably less effective than the welfare-to-work reforms deployed in smaller countries, for example, Denmark, The Netherlands and Spain. Ireland too has enjoyed labour market reforms but here the low-tax

regime has been the decisive factor: with the advent of the euro, that is now under assault from Brussels, Bonn and Paris.

The expectation of most private economists that eurozone growth will slump to an average of 1.5 per cent this year is only partly linked to the loss of export markets in Asia and Russia and weakening domestic consumer demand. Equally troubling is the resurgence of dirigiste structural policies. The 1999 budget drawn up by "Red" Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister in Gerhard Schröder's coalition, is squeezing the pips of German industry as hard as Denis Healey did the rich in Labour's tax-and-spend prime. The few steps the Kohl Government took to cut non-wage costs have effectively been suspended.

As a result, the Federation of German Industry now reports some 1,500 inquiries by crucial medium-sized companies - the Mittelstandbedrock of German manufacturing - on moving production out of the country completely.

EU state subsidies to industry continue to distort investment to the tune of more than £24 billion. France, along with Italy, is driving up its labour costs by imposing a 35-hour working week. Neither in Germany, nor France, nor Italy is unemployment expected to come down very significantly without far deeper structural reforms.

By making it easier to compare costs, both of labour and of government policies, across the eurozone, the euro helps to show how very divergent are its 11 economies. Supporters of a single currency hope that this will spur deregulation and other structural reforms; so far, it has produced a new drive for "harmonisation", for hobbling market forces in the name of eliminating "unfair" competition. For Britain to join EMU under these conditions would weaken its ability to resist pressure to co-ordinate taxes and labour costs and to sign up to restrictive labour practices. "Social Europe", the catch phrase of the continental Left, will be jobless Europe.

Until there is convincing evidence of the steep and sustainable fall in eurozone unemployment, with strong growth in private sector jobs, nothing could be less in the national interest than to tie Britain to the economics of the 1970s on which this country, 20 years ago, turned its back.



MR HAGUE'S KITCHEN

Realism and proportion on the Tory table

Two years after their defeat, many Tories remain in a state of denial. William Hague has never had any difficulty appreciating the magnitude of the change required if the Conservatives are to be serious competitors at the next general election. Many of his parliamentary colleagues and much of the Conservative Party in the country have been less ready to acknowledge this reality.

The Conservative leader seems now to be in the mood to impose his instincts on the Shadow Cabinet. As *The Times* reported yesterday, Mr Hague has adopted a new strategy entitled "kitchen table Conservatism", aimed at shifting the party's policies and style towards the core domestic issues that most influence the electorate. His seven "campaigning criteria" sound almost too obvious to be worth saying: use accessible language; listen to voters; emphasise the future; concede mistakes and move on; be for things not only against them; keep a sense of proportion in attacking Labour and insist upon integrity.

But the two most important, the willingness to "concede and move on" and maintaining a sense of proportion, will also be the hardest. Only if enacted by the entire Tory leadership team, can they change the way Conservatism is put before voters in this year of many elections.

This is the direction in which Mr Hague would now like to take his party. He is right. The most pertinent criticism is that the shift should have been made 18 months ago. Until the Conservatives can accept that mistakes were made in the past they invite the public to compare the record of the discredited Major era with that of Tony Blair and new Labour. Mr Hague needs

instead to provoke public examination of the difference between new Labour's rhetoric and its record. He then needs to persuade voters that, under his charge, the Tories have solutions to their problems.

That process is not helped by exaggerated opposition. Constant calls for ministers to resign over minor misdemeanours only serves to remind the public that Conservative politicians were not often inclined to engage in principled resignation either.

If Mr Hague is to implement "kitchen table Conservatism" he needs to surround himself with kitchen table Conservatives. This is not solely a matter of removing those most intimately associated with the last Government. Michael Howard's decision to return to the backbenches soon does, however, allow Mr Hague additional room for manoeuvre. Some of the new blood that Mr Hague brought into the Shadow Cabinet last summer has been uninspiring. The Tory leader has certain talented women MPs at his disposal. Their advancement should be his priority when the time comes to reshuffle his colleagues.

Mr Hague has his first opportunity to demonstrate a sense of proportion today when he responds to the Budget. It would be entirely legitimate for him to draw attention to Gordon Brown's "stealth taxes" and the long-term impact that they may have on the economy. It would not be reasonable to predict financial meltdown as a result of the Chancellor's measures. Such a forensic approach might offend those "Ivory tower Tories" for whom only an all-out assault on Labour is acceptable. These are not, though, the voters on whom a Conservative recovery is dependent.

THE THIRD RIGHT OF WAY

A dead end response to the right to roam

The Government is wandering towards an unnecessary rural dispute. Yesterday the Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, promised to fulfil his party's election pledge to introduce a statutory right of access to roughly four million acres of open countryside. Mr Meacher may hope that the promise of local access forums, to discuss how the law might be implemented, will soothe rural opinion. This Third Way, though, risks pleasing no one.

The Country Landowners Association (CLA) agrees that access should be improved. Its proposal for a National Voluntary Access Framework made sense. Over the past seven years, landowners have opened up an area twice the size of Nottinghamshire and created more than 12,000 miles of footpaths. Ministers have decided to ignore this success, and have chosen to wield a legislative walking stick.

Rural opinion, still anguishing over the Government's handling of other countryside issues, is likely to be enflamed by such an initiative. Instead of ambulating up the

path of least resistance to a consensual solution, Mr Meacher has instead yomped towards confrontation. Where he has not aggravated opinion, he has left numerous questions unanswered. The Government has yet to map out precisely what land will be affected. "Further consideration" will be given about what to do if landowners or ramblers disagree about land being included or excluded. Crucially, the Government has decreed that there will be "no general right of compensation".

Lawyers not ramblers stand to gain most from Mr Meacher's proposal. The CLA believes that a statutory right of access, without appropriate compensation, will infringe the Protocol of the European Court of Human Rights. Some landowners, it claims, will tell ministers to take a hike to the courts to see this issue contested. The Government has created an aggrieved constituency which it intends to boss into submission. Consensus and co-operation, not the courts and confrontation, would have been the better way to proceed.

Anti-euro feeling as strong as ever

From Sir David Mitchell

Sir, The Government has stated that "the economic benefits [of joining the euro] must be clear and unambiguous". The Prime Minister has gone further and provided tests. The first of these is the "durable convergence of the UK business cycle with that of the eurozone" (leading article, February 24). Heads have duly nodded at this apparent truism, but will a homogenised trade cycle give either the UK or the eurozone unambiguous benefit?

While the UK economy is buoyant, the eurozone benefits from raised exports and consequent jobs. When the non-convergent trade cycle moves on, we shall benefit from rising demand in the eurozone. To me, that seems a clear benefit from non-convergent trade cycles.

If we achieve the Prime Minister's first litmus test of durable convergence, a clear and unambiguous benefit will be lost. We shall all be buoyant together or all depressed together. Surely this scenario will be even worse, having lost the stabilising influence of compensating differences in the trade cycles within the EU.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MITCHELL
(Conservative MP, 1964-97),
Berry Hill Cottage,
Odiham, Hampshire RG29 1HS.
March 4.

From Mr M. J. C. Tweedie

Sir, Mr Tony Benn was right to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government would be making clear to every elector that "if Britain is a member of a single currency they will lose the right to elect or to remove on polling day those who make the economic decisions that affect our lives" (report, February 24).

British businessmen must ask themselves whether their interests are best represented by the views of the multinational-dominated CBI or the more questioning stance of the Institute of Directors and Business for Sterling. Greater attention to the views of the two latter organisations would remove the CBI crutch on which Mr Blair appears to rely when he claims that his enthusiasm for the euro is matched by the majority of British businesses.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES TWEEDIE,
Lower Upton, Little Hereford,
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 4BB.

From Mr James S. Little

Sir, I congratulate you on your editorial, "The first test", today. This is the first time that I have seen any public comment on the huge difference that exists between the social security costs of France, Germany and Italy and those of this country, and the implications of this difference upon future financial policy.

That this is a major issue of vast significance to the people of this country when the question of joining EMU is discussed there is no doubt, and more power to *The Times* for bringing it into the open.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES S. LITTLE,
Langdown, Swelling Hill, Ropley,
Abresford, Hampshire SO24 0DA.
March 3.

From Canon Edward Turner

Sir, In all the debates about the euro and the future of the EU, might I inject a theological/ethical note? In his first great book, *Moral Man and Immoral Society* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932), the influential American thinker Reinhold Niebuhr explored the sharp distinction between the hopes and aspirations of the individual person as contrasted with the activities of groups, whether national, racial or economic (and I would add religious).

Recognising that the distinction cannot be absolute, Niebuhr noted that the relationship between the individual and the community brings into intense focus the major problems and tensions of our age. It is in the light of this that Niebuhr argued that the Christian understanding of human nature may see the purpose of democracy as a way of providing a means for the use, diffusion and control of power.

The writings of Niebuhr on politics and justice could well be an invaluable resource for every person seeking to exercise power and influence in the EU, as well as in our own developing constitutional changes in the UK. Certainly a more vigorous, transparent and participative democracy is urgently required.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD TURNER,
1 King's Orchard,
The Precinct, Rochester ME1 1TG.
March 5.

From Mr Roger Franklin

Sir, Since it is now absolutely clear that Mr Blair intends to take Britain into the euro, it is time that the British people cast aside their dislike of the Tories and united around a common belief in the value of the nation state. It would be a tragedy if it was to go down in history that Britain surrendered its independence, so hard won and fought for, because it could not forgive Tony Blair.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FRANKLIN,
Trinity College, Oxford OX1 3BH.
roger.franklin@trinity.oxford.ac.uk
March 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Flying bishops are 'force for unity'

From the Suffragan Bishop of Richmond

Sir, It is very kind of the Modern Churchpeople's Union to suggest (letter, March 4) that I and my fellow "flying bishops" should be "reincorporated into the normal diocesan system". There are great attractions about acquiring the back-up staff of a diocese, the experts in such a range of specialities whom most dioceses employ.

That, though, is not why we were consecrated. The Church of England, through the Archbishops, gave us a commission to ensure "extended pastoral care and sacramental ministry... be provided" for the parishes which asked for it. This was to enable the Church of England to hold together diverse views over women's ordination for as long as was needed to reach consensus.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Communion and Women in the Episcopate put it (1988): "The fact that a synod has reached a decision does not foreclose the matter." That was endorsed by last year's Lambeth Conference. It is not for pressure groups to try to invent a new Church of England in their own image, where you may believe whatever you like, provided only that you accept that the ordination of women is Revealed Truth.

Yours &c,
T EDWIN RICHBORO:
14 Hall Place Gardens,
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3SP.
March 4.

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, The former Archbishop of York, John Habgood, worked tirelessly to ensure that the deep divisions caused by the ordination of women to the priesthood in 1992 did not destroy the unity of the Church of England. The Act of Synod was the result, enabling many to remain peacefully and often in friendship with those with whom they could never agree on this issue. But it was also an opportunity to show to a divided society and world that Christians could have fundamental disagreements and yet remain in an otherwise good and loving relationship.

Denning remembered

From Dr Michael J. Harte

Sir, For the record, Lord Denning did not urge "dockworkers' unions to sue the Government over docks privatisation" (Obituary, March 6).

During the House of Lords debates on the Dockyard Services Bill in 1986, opponents of the scheme to introduce commercial management into Devonport and Rosyth aroused his interest. He felt that the protection given to the workforce through European regulations - under which the unions had the right to go to court after any transfer and seek two weeks' pay as compensation for inadequate consultation - was insufficient. He therefore proposed that the unions should have the right to go to court to stop the transfer process if they felt there had not been full consultation.

As the Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Defence responsible for the transfer, it was both a privilege and a pleasure to work with Lord Denning and watch him, with the greatest consideration and courtesy, break government ministers over a barrel to secure an amendment to the Bill.

Subsequently, it was a matter of regret to him that the unions then abused the power he had secured for

Of course it is a fragile unity, for many bishops have deliberately and systematically flouted or ignored the promises of even-handedness to both sides that were part of the initial bargain. Even so, it is better than the hurt and division and rejections which would have ensued without the provisions of the Act of Synod.

It is desperately sad that Nicholas Henderson and Monica Furlong, the authors of your letter, are working equally tirelessly to destroy what has been achieved. One is forced to wonder who will be next on their list of opponents of the ordination of women are elected from the Church. Perhaps it will be those who hold to traditional Christian doctrine with a firmness which must surely be anathema to the Modern Churchpeople's Union.

Yours,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
North Back House, Main Street,
Wheldrake, York YO19 6AG.
March 4.

From the Reverend John F. H. Shead

Sir, It is not just that many of us have "difficulty" with the ordination of women; before the vote in 1992 it was made plain that we could not accept that this action was right.

The Act of Synod has enabled us to remain and function as priests within the Church which nurtured us in the faith and enabled us to share in Christ's priestly ministry. It has also enabled us to continue to work within current diocesan structures, but having a bishop of our own integrity to whom we can turn when necessary.

To rescind the Act of Synod would, I am sure, do great damage. We have lost some fine priests, who have felt that they could no longer function in a Church which has turned its back on its Catholic and apostolic roots. Do we really want to lose many more?

I write as an ordinary parish priest who, whilst having a high regard for the ministry of women, cannot accept that it is right to ordain them as priests.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN F. H. SHEAD,
The Vicarage, Finchfield,
Braintree, Essex CM7 4JR.
March 4.

them by refusing to join in consultation with the MoD. Instead they went to the High Court to seek to stop the transfer process at the eleventh hour. There Michael Beloff, QC, who wrote warmly about Lord Denning in his article (March 6), had no difficulty in convincing Mr Justice Millett that the Secretary of State for Defence had no case to answer. The transfer therefore went ahead as planned.

I am, Sir, etc,
MICHAEL J. HARTE,
Greenman Farm,
Wadhurst, Sussex TN5 6LE.
harte@greenman.demon.co.uk
March 6.

From Mr Cecil Genese

Sir, You report (March 6) that, on his retirement, Lord Denning, quoted from St Paul: "I wish I could say I fought a good fight, I finished the course, I kept the faith."

By how many men or women in public affairs today will this be truthfully fulfilled?

Yours faithfully,
CECIL GENESE,
2 Barton House,
Marine Drive, Barton-on-Sea,
Hampshire BH25 7EF.
March 6.

French policy in Africa

From the Ambassador of France

Sir, The act of barbarism perpetrated in Uganda against Western tourists - which the French Government has unequivocally condemned - is too heinous for it to be seized on in order to make harsh, unjust and inaccurate comments about our country's policy (report, "Hated rooted in colonial struggle", March 4).

It is, in particular, totally wrong to assert that France ignored the UN embargo on arms supplies to Rwanda, when, as we have already said (letter, March 13, 1997), France stopped sending any military hardware to Rwanda before the UN ban was imposed.

I also want to reiterate that, ever since the onset of the Rwandan crisis, France has made every effort to promote a political solution. I am surprised at your correspondent's remarks regarding the relations between Britain and France in Africa. France is in no way suffering from a "Fashoda syndrome". The rivalry which you allege exists between our two nations belongs to the 19th century.

The best proof of this lies in the joint visit which, this week, our two countries' Foreign Ministers will be paying to Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire where, in line with the decision of last December's Anglo-French summit in Saint-Malo, they will be chairing the first joint meeting of UK and French Ambassadors in Africa.

On the eve of the 21st century, we both have but one driving ambition: to contribute to the stability of the African continent as a whole.

Yours etc,
DANIEL BERNARD,
French Embassy,
58 Knightsbridge, SW1X 7JT.
March 8.

Third World debt

From Mr Peter Ball

Sir, Recently I have assisted in the presentation of several seminars and workshops addressed to the investigating authorities, lawyers and bankers of Kenya and Uganda on the subject of banking frauds investigation management.

On occasion, the subject of the servicing of international debts has arisen; I am finding it increasingly difficult to offer, let alone defend, the view that such debts should be serviced and eventually repaid. My hosts are far too polite to cause me embarrassment, and discussion usually peters out inconclusively.

I have searched in vain for an understandable and moral defence for the current Western capitalist view.

Council cuts close precious museums

From the Chairman of National Heritage

Sir, The news that Cheltenham Borough Council has decided to close two local museums, the Gustav Holst Birthplace Museum and the Costume Museum at the Pittville Pump Room, will freeze the marrow of every museum curator dependent on local authority funding.

Holst was born in 1874 at 4 Clarence Road, one of the town's smaller Regency-style houses (it was built in 1832), and the house remained in private hands until 1974, when it was bought by the Holst Birthplace Trust, with the help of the borough council, and turned into a museum which contains many items associated with this great English composer, including his grand piano, and a vividly presented account of his life and work.

The Costume Museum is quite different, but also a model small enterprise of its kind. It was opened in 1983 to display some of the fine collection of costumes, dating mainly from the 18th century, and hitherto stored in the town's main Art Gallery and Museum, complemented by the Hull Grundy jewellery collection. It is housed on the upper floors of the splendid Grade I listed Pittville Pump Room.

The Holst Museum is to be kept "as an educational resource", meaning apparently that it will be opened occasionally for school parties by prior appointment. The Costume Museum is to be dismantled by May of this year, and the rooms above the Pump Room will be hired out for functions.

The problem, of course, is money. The Liberal Democrat majority on the council was faced with a budget deficit and has put the squeeze on the leisure department, an amorphous conglomerate of responsibilities that includes hanging baskets, playbuses, and Christmas lights as well as what we might have hoped were more permanent structures - such as museums and galleries that bring in visitors as well as providing an educational and cultural service to the inhabitants of Cheltenham.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BISHOP,
Chairman, National Heritage,
9a North Street, SW4 0NH.
March 5.

Origins of the kilt

From Mr Iain Naylor

Sir, I would disagree with Mr Aitken Fyall (letter, March 3) on the origins of the kilt. Whilst he mentions Hugh Trevor-Roper's point that its creation is attributable to an English Quaker from Furness, circa 1730, a glance at the Arms of Skene of Skene of 1672, reveals that the left-hand supporter wore trousers and the right-hand a kilt. Let us promote the use of the kilt for the new millennium with the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh giving an inspired lead.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN NAYLOR,
11 Leamouth Terrace,
Edinburgh EH4 1PG.
March 3.

From Dr Bruce L. Lees

Sir, I have always thought it somewhat ironic that the kilt should now be seen as the national dress of Scotland when its origins seemed to lie in the Highlands which were hated and feared by the rest of Scotland until the 18th century.

However, that view may be quite wrong. I have a friend who is the epitome of a West Highlander; he lives and works where his family have always lived and worked. Recently we were looking at photographs of his daughter's wedding in the West Highlands. Amongst the groom (the English-born son of Lowland Scottish parents), the best man, and other male guests, all wearing kilts, he stood out by being dressed in a dark grey suit.

When I asked him why this was he replied, with some scorn, that kilts were "skins for Englishmen!"

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LEES,
Hayfield, Bournefields,
Twyford, Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 1NY.
March 3.

All in the genes

From Mr Colin Stamp

Sir, My wife recently purchased a tube of toothpaste which has a "use by" date of 11.1.2030.

Does the manufacturer know something about genetic engineering which is being kept from us?

Yours sincerely,
COLIN STAMP,
3 Shenstone Close,
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3PS.
March 7.

From Mr David Winters

Sir, "Du Pont's Monsanto link to dwarf rivals" (headline, March 4).

Surely genetic modification has gone too far.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WINTERS,
8 rue des Romains,
L-5465 Waldbredimus, Luxembourg.
March 4.

Business letters, page 31

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

JOE DIMAGGIO

Joe DiMaggio, baseball player, died yesterday aged 84. He was born on November 25, 1914.

Although baseball's annual championship is called the World Series, Joe DiMaggio's heroic status is hard to convey to non-Americans for whom the sport remains a mystery. Outsiders would have to imagine a figure who combined the romantic aura of Stanley Matthews, the car-like grace of Gary Sobers and the self-effacing sportsmanliness of Henry Cooper.

DiMaggio — known alternately as the "Yankee Clipper" and "Joltin' Joe" — exemplified the fusion of sport and celebrity. A star of the all-conquering New York Yankees team between 1936 and 1951, he achieved even greater fame in retirement when he became the second husband of Marilyn Monroe.

The marriage ended in acrimony within a year, but the couple subsequently reconciled their friendship, and the iconic publicity-shy DiMaggio remained a father-like presence in her turbulent private life until her death in 1962.

By the end of his life he had attained something akin to a secular sainthood — one journalist dubbing him "the last American knight". Ernest Hemingway, one of the players old drinking companions, wrote his name into the novella *The Old Man and the Sea*: "I would like to greet the great DiMaggio fishing. They say his father was a fisherman. Maybe he was as poor as we are and would understand."

DiMaggio was also used as a symbol of the slipping away of the American dream, in one

of the quintessential pop songs of the Sixties, Simon and Garfunkel's *Mrs. Robinson*.

Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?
A nation turns its lonely eyes to you
What's that you say, Mrs. Robinson?
Joltin' Joe has left this town a-gone away.

The son of a Sicilian-born fisherman, Joseph Paul DiMaggio was born into a large and strict Roman Catholic family in Martinez, northern California. Even though their father called it "a bum's game", two of his brothers, Vincent and Dominic, also went on to careers in Major League baseball.

Tall and lean, DiMaggio joined the San Francisco Seals before finishing high school, and four years later, at 21, he signed with a Yankees side that was still coming to terms with life without the newly retired Babe Ruth.

Playing alongside legends such as Lou Gehrig, DiMaggio soon established himself as a star outfielder, his apparently effortless pace earning him his "Clipper" nickname. A potent striker of the ball too, he helped the Yankees to victory in the World Series in three consecutive seasons from 1936.



Joe DiMaggio striking out for the Yankees in 1941, the year of "The Streak", his unparalleled run of hits over 56 games

The country was gripped, and DiMaggio was elevated from being a baseball star to the paragon of national icons. When his run finally came to an end in an away game with the Cleveland Indians, some of the home supporters booed their own team. The next day photographs of the Cleveland pitchers appeared on front pages across America — "as if they had assassinated a king," as one baseball historian put it.

In 1943 DiMaggio enlisted in the US Air Force, where he was assigned to physical training units. He returned to baseball at the end of the war, but after a sub-standard season in 1946, he was almost traded to another team. The next year he was back to his best form, scoring two home runs as the Yankees took another World Series.

The 1949 season (in which he became the first player to break the \$100,000 barrier) proved the stuff of legend. After missing more than 60 games with a foot injury, he

made a belated return, his phenomenal batting carrying the Yankees to league victory over the Boston Red Sox in the final two games of the season. In a crucial game against the Red Sox, he hit four home runs in three games, and went on to score two home runs in the World Series victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was to end his career with a .325 batting average and a tally of no fewer than 361 home runs in 1,736 games.

By 1951 DiMaggio was increasingly falling victim to recurrent ailments, including calcium deposits on his throwing arm, stomach ulcers and arthritis.

He retired shortly after his 37th birthday, and in spite of his congenial shyness he became a television sports host. His introverted character had been apparent during his playing days. Quiet and intense, he remained aloof from his fellow players. As one recalled in later years: "He's one of the loneliest guys I ever knew. And he leads the league in room service."

The next stormy phase of his life began soon afterwards, when he saw the 25-year-old Marilyn Monroe posing in baseball gear, and invited her on a date. Monroe, unaware of his fame, arrived two hours late, but was apparently impressed by his quiet demeanour. DiMaggio was soon visiting her on film sets. They were married in San Francisco in January 1954, beginning their honeymoon by escaping a mob of reporters and autograph-hunters and renting a room in a modest motel south of the city.

Journalists made great play when DiMaggio insisted on a room with a television. Almost from the start there were signs that the couple were ill-matched. DiMaggio, who had married and divorced the actress Dorothy Arnold a decade earlier, was a man of simple tastes whose ideal wife was a conventional homemaker. While his career was already behind him, Monroe was just breaking through to international stardom.

Having fallen for a sex symbol, DiMaggio grew increasingly jealous, complaining about her choice of roles and her revealing costumes. There were frequent rumours about angry silences and outbursts of violence. Matters came to a head in September during the filming in New York of *The Seven Year Itch*, when he saw crowds standing on Lexington Avenue in the middle of the night to watch the famous scene in which a gust of warm air from a subway vent sends Monroe's dress billowing upwards.

Monroe fled for divorce two weeks later. "I just goes to show," observed the comic Joe E. Lewis, "no man can be an expert at our two national pastimes." After the initial thrill of the romance had worn off, Monroe confessed to friends that she was "bored" with her husband's company.

Yet their relationship deepened after their separation. DiMaggio was regularly on hand with emotional and physical support, particularly as Monroe became psychologically unstable. In the final months of her life there was even talk of a possible remarriage. One of the items found in her address book after her death was an affectionate, unfinished letter to him.

In the days that followed, DiMaggio took charge of the funeral arrangements, barring Hollywood figures — including Monroe's former lovers Frank Sinatra and Peter Lawford — from the simple dignified service. Her third husband, Arthur Miller, also stayed away. In later years DiMaggio pointedly avoided even mentioning her name in public, but he had roses delivered every week to the Los Angeles grave.

PROFESSOR G. H. MOORE

Geoffrey Moore, Professor of American Literature at Hull University, 1962-82, died on February 5 aged 78. He was born in Mitcham, Surrey, on June 10, 1920.

ONE of the founders of American Studies as a subject in British universities during the 1950s, Geoffrey Moore was also a poet, novelist, critic and broadcaster. In 1954 he published *The Penguin Book of Modern American Verse*, but his magnum opus — at 1,328 pages — was *American Literature: A Representative Anthology of American Writing from Colonial Times to the Present* (1964).

Born in London, Geoffrey Herbert Moore saw wartime service in the RAF before reading English at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took a first in 1947. An appointment as instructor in English at the University of Wisconsin was followed by time as a visiting professor at the universities of Tulane, Kansas City and New Mexico. Returning to

Britain in the early 1950s, Moore was a regular anonymous contributor to *The Times Literary Supplement*, and an editor and producer for BBC Television.

In the mid-1950s his senior lectureship in American literature at Manchester University was the first full-time post in the subject at a British university. In 1962 he was appointed Professor of American Literature and head of the new Department of American Studies at the University of Hull, where in 20 years he built up the Brynmor Jones Library's holdings of American literature from virtually nothing. He also helped to create an innovative syllabus, which increasingly attracted student applicants as well as visiting American Fulbright scholars.

The introduction of a four-year single honours degree programme, which included a year's study at one of several major American universities, also owed much to his enthusiasm and range of friendships and contacts in the American

groves of academe. Many of these friends — notably James Baldwin, Robert Lowell and Mary McCarthy — also visited Hull.

Following his retirement in 1982, Moore continued to lecture on the essential "American-ness" of American literature to appreciative international audiences. Even in these later years, it could be said of him (as Peter Parish once said of Harry Allen) that he had "an infinite capacity for taking planes". He also became editor of the Penguin edition of the works of Henry James, and reviewed for the *Financial Times*.

An engaging if sometimes acerbic figure, Moore, in his own telling, relished the "bright lights of London", the company of intelligent and attractive women (his marriage to Pamela Marguerite was dissolved in 1962), the exhilaration of driving high-powered cars, and the dubious comforts of health farms. He leaves a daughter in Oxford and a son in California.

Peter Cole, former television news executive, died of heart failure on March 6 aged 66. He was born on April 26, 1932.

IT WAS a quiet news day on May 30, 1968, when Peter Cole was manning the home news desk on *News at Ten* in Television House, Kingsway, London. His phone rang and a voice said: "I'm Cecil King. I have just been sacked as chairman of International Publishing Corporation, owners of Mirror Newspapers. I am coming round to be interviewed."

Suspecting a hoax, Cole phoned back to King's office and verified the caller's identity. ITN broke into afternoon hours racing on ITV with a newslash. And that is how the world — and *Daily Mirror* executives — learnt about the dramatic departure of the powerful newspaper owner.

Peter Cole was born in Whitechurch, Shropshire, and worked as a journalist on the *Rhonda Leader*, the *Merthyr*

PETER COLE



Cole in 1996, in retirement from News at Ten

Express and the *Western Mail* in Cardiff. His television career began at TWW, the ITV contractor for Wales and the West, where he worked variously as news editor, reporter and sports commentator, specialising in boxing.

He joined ITN as news editor in 1964, three years before the birth of *News at Ten*. In the 1970s he took on a special assignment as news editor of ITN's election night

results programmes — *The Nation Decides*, anchored by Alastair Burnet. He was given the task of ensuring that ITN's service of individual constituency results would be faster than the BBC's.

He positioned a stringer in nearly every constituency (more than 600). He kept in close touch with all of them, urged them to make personal contact with every returning officer, and in many cases

installed dedicated telephones so that the correspondents could phone a special number in the election studio and pass on the flash result to Burnet. ITN became renowned for its faster service on election night, and that owed a lot to Cole's original system.

In June 1986 a freelance cameraman, George De'Ath, on assignment for ITN in the African township of Crossroads, near Cape Town, was caught between two tribal factions warring war and murder. Cole, then an editorial executive, flew to Cape Town with a colleague, Norman Rees, and took charge of the complex arrangements that followed. They were almost immediately in trouble with the South African authorities for not having proper visas.

They convinced De'Ath's family and kept in touch with the South African police, who were seeking the killers, though no one was ever charged. Later Cole and Rees organised a memorial service, which was attended by the

members of the international media. Cole, on behalf of ITN, set up an endowment at a technical college to fund an annual prize for aspiring cameramen, commemorating De'Ath's name.

The following year he was in action again in Zimbabwe when an ITN stringer was locked up as a suspected South African spy. Cole convinced the authorities that the stringer's scoop (about a South African raid on Zambia) was good journalism, not espionage: the man was released.

Cole retired in 1989 as senior news editor. He loved France (he was an accomplished cook) and he and his family were regular visitors to their house in the Garonne area. In retirement he worked in the media department of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, and as a media consultant.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLATSHARE

SHARED-FLAT Ltd. For a flat, see
us. Tel: 01753 664 438

NANNIES & DOMESTIC

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL Collection of 1000
English, French, Italian, Spanish
Porcelain, Glass, Silver, Jewellery
and other collectables. Price from
£100.00. Tel: 01753 664 438

MAJOR DONALD HENDERSON

Major Donald Henderson, G.M. bomb disposal expert, died on January 30, aged 77. He was born on December 12, 1921.

IN A career of 17 years in the Explosives Office of the Metropolitan Police, Donald Henderson regularly faced death from terrorist bombs. At Christmas-time in 1974, at the height of an IRA bombing campaign, he was called out to no fewer than 72 incidents in eight nights.

But the exploit that won him his George Medal probably represented Henderson's closest brush with death. One evening in 1975, in the middle of a spate of bombings, murder and attempted murder orchestrated by an IRA unit which came to be known as the Balcombe Street gang, Henderson was called to Locken's Restaurant, in Marsham Street, near the House of

Commons, where a clientele which included a number of MPs was dining. Police had spotted a holdall wedged between a window of the restaurant and an iron grille.

The building was cleared and Henderson, who knew that this type of device had a very short delayed action, ran towards the bomb, keeping parked cars between him and the holdall until the last possible moment. The bomb, which consisted of 25lb of high explosive at the core of a packing of heavy screws, was to be triggered by a simple pocket watch. Seizing up the situation in a moment, Henderson cut the wires leading to the detonator and threw the holdall containing the bomb down on to the pavement. When he later inspected it he found that there were only a few seconds left on the timer.

At the trial of the Balcombe

Street gang — so named because they were eventually arrested after holding a couple hostage at their flat in Balcombe Street, Marylebone — the judge praised Henderson for his courage in the face of the risks he faced almost daily.

Donald Victor Henderson had come to the Met from the Army which he had joined as a Territorial shortly before the Second World War. After the war he was commissioned in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a munitions officer and served in Hong Kong, Korea, Aden and Germany before his retirement in 1964.

That year he joined the Met and with an old friend, Major Geoffrey Biddle (also to win the George Medal for defusing a bomb under Edward Heath's ear), set up his Explosives Office at Cannon Row police station. During the escalation of IRA activity in

London in the 1970s both he and Biddle were kept busy defusing explosive devices of all types. Henderson was also personally responsible for checking the safety of St Paul's Cathedral for the wedding of the Prince of Wales. He was much in demand as a lecturer on explosive devices to other police forces throughout the world, notably the FBI.

In retirement, from 1981, he wrote a number of books, among them *Bomb Two*. This was a novel which embodied much realistic detail about the technical problems and mental strains confronting the bomb disposal officer.

Henderson's first wife, Joan, died in 1981. In 1983 he married Maisie, whom he and Joan had known from their Service days in Aden. She died in 1994 and he is survived by the two daughters and two sons of his first marriage.

HUNTING: The earthstopper's duty

FROM OUR HUNTING CORRESPONDENT

THE fox shares with the modern young lady the two-fold cult of speed and slowness. Indeed he only survives on hunting days by means of one or the other: making use of his speed above ground or his slowness in some narrow subterranean retreat. It really is amazing into what a tiny hole a full-grown fox can creep. Some say that where his mask will go the rest of him will follow. It is certain that countless foxes in extremis have squeezed into drain pipes or wormed their way down rabbit holes even smaller than that. But luckily the earthstopper is not normally expected to deal with foxes with such confidence in their own compressibility.

Technically, earthstopping is of two varieties — stopping and putting-to. In those covers which the bounds are going to draw, each earth must be "stopped" during the previous night, while the foxes are out hunting for food. Then when they are wanted they should be found above ground, perhaps curled up near the earth. It is usual to advise that this work should be done between 9 and 10pm for the tradition of going early to bed still lingers in the country, and it is not much

ON THIS DAY

March 9, 1934

This relic of Times past, when the sports pages reported at length on hunt meets, explains how the hunt's earthstopper would block holes in which a hunted fox might take cover.

Chance to be a champ

Sport, page 48



BUSINESS • LAW • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES



Check Fantasy scores

Pages 44-45

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 9 1999

Investor confidence rebounds

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor received a big boost before today's Budget as a new survey reported a record jump in confidence among City investors.

survey of UK fund managers, which was published yesterday, revealed the sharpest jump in confidence in the survey's nine-year history. The number of investors expecting an improved economic situation over the next 12 months doubled to 67 per cent between February and March.

It was the first time in 18 months that a majority of fund managers have expected an overall improvement in the economy and companies with a low of 3 per cent in September. The improved optimism is also clear in a marked up- grade to corporate earnings predictions with 1999 earnings now expected to rise by 2.9 per cent, compared with an expected 0.8 per cent in January, and reach 6.5 per cent next year.

The manufacturing sector unexpectedly returned to growth in January while the British Retail Consortium monthly sales figures showed retail sales maintaining modest growth in the traditionally weak month of February.

The monthly GDP estimate provided by the National Insti- tute of Economic and Social Research also hinted that the economy has now reached the bottom — without recording an outright decline in GDP — and that growth is to pick up again in the coming months.

Mr Brown has been under pressure to reduce his growth assumptions, which at between 1 and 1.5 per cent are well above the City consensus. However, the string of posi- tive data yesterday, combined with the Bank of England's ag- gressive rate-cutting stance has boosted hopes that the economy is set to achieve a soft landing and eased the pres- sure on Mr Brown to make en- barrassing revisions to his forecasts in today's Budget.

Official data showed manu- facturing output climbed by 0.1 per cent between Decem- ber and January, bolstering hopes that the struggling sec- tor may have reached the bot- tom at last. The annual rate of growth, however, continued to show a decline, falling by 0.9 percentage points from a year ago, while overall industrial output also fell by 0.5 per cent in January, compared with De- cember, as the warm weather cut energy output.

Business Today

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----|
| Commentary | No crumbs of comfort | 29 |
| Stock Market | Pre-Budget nerves | 30 |
| Equity prices | | 33 |
| Unit trusts | | 34 |



Anatole Kaletsky on a Keynesian debt of gratitude
Page 31

| STOCK MARKET INDICES | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100 | 6208.6 | (+3.3) |
| FTSE All Share | 2448.70 | (+2.75) |
| Nikkei | 14778.05 | (+114.58) |
| Dow Jones | 9708.48 | (+27.82) |
| S&P Composite | 1274.74 | (+0.73) |

| US RATE | | |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| Federal Funds | 4.75% | (6.50%) |
| Long bond | 5.50% | (6.50%) |
| Yield | 5.50% | (6.50%) |

| LONDON MONEY | | |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| 3-month interest | 5% | (6.5%) |
| Libor 3m | 118.37 | (116.80) |

| STERLING | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| New York | 1.8099* | (1.8067) |
| London | 1.8076 | (1.8007) |
| Frankfurt | 1.4773 | (1.4835) |
| Paris | 2.3834 | (2.3818) |
| Yen | 161.01 | (162.00) |
| S. Index | 102.1 | (102.4) |

| DOLLAR | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| London | 1.0902* | (1.0832) |
| S&P | 1.4818* | (1.4805) |
| Yen | 124.11* | (122.00) |
| S. Index | 108.0 | (108.1) |

| NORTH SEA OIL | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 5-day (May) | \$12.25 | (\$11.70) |

| GOLD | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$288.65 | (\$288.45) |
| * denotes midday trading prices | | |

| Exchange rates | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Page 28 | | |

Retailers store wars 'are phoney'

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

SUPERMARKETS stood accused of staging a price war yesterday as Asda launched a new pricing campaign but admitted that most of the cost would come from its existing marketing budget.

Deal with watchdogs saves Intel from trial

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

A DEAL with US competition watchdogs yesterday saved Intel, the world's biggest computer chip maker, from a courtroom trial that had been scheduled to start today.

The settlement between Intel and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) officials rescued the semiconductor giant from a courtroom battle just two blocks from where Micro- soft is answering charges of violat- ing monopoly laws.



Telephone numbers: Martin Dawes stands to net £75 million from the sale of MDT

Dawes to net £75m from sale of MDT to Cellnet

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

MARTIN DAWES, the tele- coms entrepreneur, will net more than £75 million from the sale of his mobile phone business to Cellnet. It emerged yesterday.

Goldman votes for flotation

BY CAROLINE MERRELL
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOLDMAN SACHS, the in- vestment bank, yesterday vot- ed overwhelmingly in favour of flotation in a deal that could pay an average of \$100 million (£62.5 million) to each of the bank's 220 partners.

Union leader could be facing a picket line

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN EDMONDS, the union leader who has been at the forefront of campaigns against heavy-handed manag- ers, could have to face a picket line of his union colleagues after the dismissal of an official over an alleged incident of bul- lying at his own office.

The embarrassing prospect faces Mr Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, after two ballots of staff at the union's Wimbledon headquarters in southwest London produced an over- whelming mandate for a strike.

GMB and MSF union mem- bers voted by three to one for the action in protest over al- leged bullying incidents con- cerning senior officials. They want the reinstatement of Warren Glover, an official who, ironically, was recruited for his knowledge and work on bullying in the office.

Reuters executives cash in with £1.04m bonus

BY JASON NISSE

EXECUTIVE directors of Reuters Holdings, the global communications group, shared a bonus of £1.04 million last year — the equivalent of 49 per cent of their salaries — in spite of a 7 per cent fall in the company's profits.

Peter Job, the chief execu- tive, was the largest benefici- ary with a £255,000 windfall, to take his total remuneration package to £791,000, up from £513,000 in 1997.

Jean-Claude Marchand, the sales director, received a bonus of £173,000, while David Ure and André Villeneuve, who run the trading systems businesses, each received £166,000.

AD 13,500 of Goldman's em- ployees will benefit from the plan, including 2,500 based in London and Europe. Details of the share scheme will be un- veiled next week. Up to 15 per cent of the bank is expected to be floated on the New York Stock Exchange, while the bank is believed to be valued at about \$20 billion.

Non.

Details of UK and Europe

Oui.

4.99% (5.3% APR) fixed to 31/3/2002.

John Charcol, in European-style LK mortgage rates.

JOHN CHARCOL

0800 71 81 91

Talk about a better mortgage.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

CIT buys Canadian lender

America's CIT Group is buying Newcourt Credit Group, of Canada, for \$4.2 billion (£2.6 billion) in shares, creating one of the largest publicly owned non-bank lenders. Combined, the companies will manage \$50 billion in assets, consisting mainly of loans financing consumer purchases, business purchases of equipment, and commercial operations such as venture capital investments and corporate restructurings. Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, the Japanese bank that is CIT's largest shareholder, will own 24 per cent of the enlarged group.

Candover ahead

Net assets at Candover Investments, the venture capital group, increased by 25 per cent last year to reach £199.5 million or 87p a share, up from 703p.

Pre-tax profits at the group for 1998 rose 66 per cent to £12.1 million. The company declared a total dividend for the year of 25p against 20p the previous year.

WSP profits up

WSP group, the consulting engineer, lifted pre-tax profits to £4.68 million from £3.25 million in 1998 on turnover that climbed to £77.36 million from £57 million. Earnings rose to 10.4p a share from 7.3p. The total dividend is lifted to 3.3p a share from 2.8p with a 1.9p final. The shares rose 3p to 186p.

Migraine claim

About one third of the migraine sufferers who have taken Vanguard Medical's new treatment received relief from their headaches within two hours, the company claimed yesterday. There are concerns that sales of the drug, to be marketed as Migard, will be hampered by fears that it is slower acting than rival medicines. Payments of £10.9 million from Elan, which is to market Migard, enabled Vanguard to report that at the end of 1998 it had £48.3 million in cash with annual losses down by a quarter to £16 million.

Albemarle raids market to pick up 18.6% Albright stake

By PAUL DURMAN

THE American company bidding £408 million for Albright & Wilson quickly picked up an 18.6 per cent stake in its target yesterday, despite widespread suggestions that Albright could attract rival offers.

Albemarle Corporation, of Virginia, spent about £76 million buying shares in the market at its offer price of 130p. It is unusual for institutional investors to accept a takeover bid at the outset of an offer period.

Albright's recommendation of the Albemarle offer as "on

balance... reasonable" was lukewarm. It recognised that "the low stock market rating of... medium size chemicals companies limits Albright & Wilson's options to participate in the continuing consolidation of the specialty chemicals industry and consequently reduces its prospects for long term growth".

Asked about a boardroom split on the deal, Paul Rocheleau, Albright's chief executive, said: "It's fair to say there was careful deliberation around the board. We have had to consider the short-term

prospects for the company in the global chemicals industry, which continues to be challenging during 1999."

Phillips & Drew, the largest shareholder with a 25 per cent stake, has not accepted the Albemarle offer in the hope that a higher bid will emerge.

It is understood that at least three other potential bidders have expressed an interest in Albright and its phosphate-based business in recent weeks. These include Rhodia of France, but its parent, Rhône-Poulenc, may be too busy with its attempt to merge with Hoechst of Germany.

Witco, of the US, is another name mentioned.

Albemarle is smaller than Albright when measured by its \$20 million (£10 million) of sales or 2,700 employees, but it claims a better record of improving profits. Floyd Gottwald, Albemarle's chairman and chief executive, said the synergies were unusually good in areas such as flame retardants, pharmaceutical intermediates and detergents.

He said he had no plans to close any of Albright's factories, and any reduction of staff numbers was more likely to be

by retirements than redundancies. About 1,500 of Albright's 5,000 employees are in the UK. Mr Gottwald said: "I certainly hope we will be able to retain all of their management. It will be harder to do without them."

Albemarle is offering a 70 per cent premium to Albright's price before bid talks were announced in January. Shares in the UK company, which has struggled to lift profits since floating four years ago, closed at 129p.

Tempus, page 30

IMI has £300m to buy other engineers

By ADAM JONES

IMI said yesterday that it had a £300 million "war chest" to buy other engineers, allaying fears that its depressed share price might hold back expansion.

IMI, whose products include drink dispensing machines, valves and other engineering components, has had a subdued start to 1999.

Gary Allen, chief executive, said yesterday that the order book in the first quarter was more than 4 per cent down on the same period in 1998, although the situation was stabilising. IMI had been affected by the strong pound, the General Motors strike and the turmoil in the Far East and Russia.

However, 1998 results published yesterday showed that IMI made a record profit before tax of £167 million, up 12 per cent on 1997. Sales rose just 1.5 per cent to £1.455 billion. Before exceptional earnings per share were 30.4p (30.7p). A dividend of 9.1p per share has been declared, making 14.8p (14p) for the year.

Mr Allen said about 700 jobs were likely to be cut this year, including about 150 in the UK. The shares, which peaked at 532p last May, rose from 235p to 252p.

Tempus, page 30



Ron Spinney, Hammerson chief executive, sees no signs of over-supply in London offices

Boost for Hammerson

By Carl Mortished

STRONG GAINS in its London office and French retail properties sparked a rise in Hammerson shares yesterday. The property group revealed a 10.5 per cent increase in net asset value to 485p per share in the year to December, helping the stock price gain 11p yesterday to 418p.

Gains of almost 10 per cent in value for its UK offices surprised property analysts, who have been warning of a slowdown in demand for office

space from financial institutions. Ron Spinney, chief executive of Hammerson, said that, unlike a decade ago, there were no signs of over-supply in the London office market, though occupiers were becoming more discerning in their choice of properties.

While Hammerson's French retail property also showed strong growth, gaining 10 per cent last year, UK retail space showed evidence of the consumer slowdown with a 5.5 per cent increase in value.

Hammerson, which last week formed a partnership with Land Securities to develop shopping centres in Birmingham, increased its pre-tax profit for the year by almost 10 per cent to £68.8 million, excluding an exceptional gain of £13 million from the sale of its Canadian portfolio. Mr Spinney said that rent increases added £5 million to the underlying profit gain, while acquisitions contributed £3.5 million, offset by increased interest costs.

Hammerson is increasing the dividend by 5.5 per cent to 8.65p.

Persimmon delivers upbeat assessment

By ROBERT COLE

DUNCAN DAVIDSON, chairman of Persimmon, the housebuilder, delivered a strongly upbeat assessment of the prospects for the UK housing market yesterday.

The comments, partly designed to lift the gloom that has shrouded the sector for the past six months, came as Persimmon posted a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for 1998 — a year that many feared would bring widespread profit declines from housebuilding companies.

Sales of Persimmon properties fell 1 per cent to 6,483 but it managed to increase profits by raising selling prices by an average of 6 per cent and squeezing costs. The group also sold larger houses.

Mr Davidson said that since the new year sales of newly built properties were 10 per cent higher, and the revenues from sales were also up by a tenth. He also said he believed housebuilding as an industry would not be nearly so cyclical in the future with low interest rates underpinning stability.

Pre-tax profits for 1998 were £60.5 million up from £50.5 million. Earnings per share rose to 25.1p from 21.3p. The final dividend is 7.1p which makes a total of 10.4p (10p).

Solid returns from Nycomed

By PAUL DURMAN

NYCOMED AMERSHAM, the medical imaging group, is still seeking buyers for its pharmaceutical business, which suffered a tough 1998 because of the Russian economic crisis.

A 6 per cent fall in profits at Nycomed Pharma to £37.7 million was the principal weakness in solid results for the first full year since Amersham International merged with Nycomed of Norway and Pharmacia Biotech of Sweden.

Nycomed Pharma is strong in Scandinavia but it also has a large business in Russia. Bill Castelli, chief executive of Nycomed Amersham, said: "It's a good company with good cash flows and good profits. We want Pharma to be part of a group that sees it as part of its major business. Nothing's imminent: we talk to people every day but we only marry occasionally."

The group reported a 12 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £222.3 million, helped by £32 million of savings from the merger. The shares rose 25p to 460p.

The imaging business overcame continuing falls in prices



Castelli: nothing imminent

in the US X-ray market to increase operating profits by 14 per cent to £18.9 million. Sales of iodine seeds to treat prostate cancer more than doubled to £42 million, while Myoview, the heart imaging agent, was 41 per cent ahead at £43 million. Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, which supplies tools and services used in drug discovery, had a strong second half to increase profits by 23 per cent to £73.4 million.

A final dividend of 3.5p makes a total of 5.3p a share, equivalent to a 15 per cent increase.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gokal appeals over BCCI conviction

A PAKISTANI shipping tycoon who crippled the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and was jailed for 14 years at the Old Bailey, took his case to the Court of Appeal yesterday. Abbas Gokal, 62, who was convicted by a jury in 1997 of fraud and false accounting at the conclusion of a 122-day trial, received the steepest sentence of his kind to be meted out by a British court. When he was sentenced, Mr Justice Buxton, the trial judge, said Gokal's actions had threatened the integrity of the entire international banking system.

Gokal, former chairman of the Gulf Group, siphoned £750 million from BCCI through a maze of offshore companies, threatening ruin for thousands of bank depositors, including the Western Isles council in Scotland. As well as his sentence, Gokal was also ordered to pay £2.9 million out of his personal assets within two years, or face another three years in prison. One of the main grounds of appeal centres on the circumstances in which Gokal, who was arrested in Germany, was brought within this jurisdiction. The appeal continues today.

Allied Waste deal

ALLIED WASTE Industries is acquiring Browning-Ferris Industries, a rival US waste management company, for \$9.1 billion (£5.65 billion). The deal will create America's second-largest waste company, behind Waste Management, with annual revenues of \$6.6 billion and interests in landfills, waste collection networks and recycling operations. Allied Waste expects the merged entity to save \$290 million in the first year. Disposals are likely to raise \$900 million.

Fortis in \$2.6bn buy

FORTIS, the Belgo-Dutch financial services group, moved to create a leading specialty credit insurance group in the US yesterday with the \$2.6 billion (£1.6 billion) acquisition of American Bankers Insurance. The plan is to merge Fortis's US subsidiary, American Security, with ABI. Last year ABI looked to set to fall into hands of Centand before the troubled US services conglomerate pulled out. Last year Fortis spent £7 billion buying Belgium's Generale Bank.

Servisair fights back

SERVISAIR, the airport baggage handling and support services group, is in "detailed discussions" with a number of outside parties in its attempt to see off a hostile takeover by Amey. After Servisair put out its second defence document yesterday, Amey, said that it will not raise its 200p offer that values Servisair at £81.5 million. Servisair said pre-tax profits for last year fell by £1 million to £6 million after it lost its American Airlines contract. The total dividend is 5.5p (5.3p).

Caradon triple sale

CARADON, the builder's merchant, continued its divestment programme yesterday with the sale of three businesses. Its UK doors and windows business has been sold to Baxford, for £40.3 million. BetterBilt, its American doors and windows business, has been sold to MI Home Products for £10.4 million. Caradon's garage door manufacturer has been sold to its management for £2.5 million. Caradon also spent £30 million to take a controlling stake in Turkish radiator business Termo Teknik.

Hillsdown disposal

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the food manufacturer, is raising £24.4 million through the disposal of Holco, its Dutch canning operations, in the latest stage of a protracted restructuring process. Holco is a canner and processor of mushrooms, with associated operations in Poland, Germany and Belgium. In 1998 it contributed operating profits of 5 million guilders (£1.5 million) on turnover of 240 million guilders. The business is being sold to a group of private investors.

Trafficmaster motors

SHARES of Trafficmaster motored yesterday after the traffic information group announced an agreement with the German group Mannesmann to market its network of traffic information services in Europe and to car manufacturers. News of the deal came as the company also announced a thirteenfold rise in earnings per share to 11.3p as the company reported pre-tax profits for 1998 of £3.2 million (£241,000). Trafficmaster shares rose more than 20 per cent, up 22p to £10.30.

Bunzl profits ahead

BUNZL, the international services group, reaped the benefit of a move away from its traditional paper and packaging business to achieve a 15 per cent rise in operating profits from continuing businesses last year. The company also achieved a 7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £132.3 million before tax and exceptional items, helped also by increased exposure to the US economy. Bunzl yesterday announced the £28.5 million takeover of Provend, a provider of vending services and supplies.

| Bank | | Bank | | Bank | | Bank | |
|--------------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Australia \$ | 2.95 | 2.47 | Japan Yen | 211.02 | 289.50 | Italy Lira | 3097 |
| Canada \$ | 21.33 | 19.67 | Malta | 0.670 | 0.611 | Japan Yen | 211.02 |
| Denmark Kr | 62.81 | 57.85 | Netherlands Gld | 3.447 | 3.152 | Norway Kr | 13.25 |
| Egypt £ | 0.9888 | 0.9273 | New Zealand \$ | 1.18 | 1.22 | Portugal Esc | 308.22 |
| France F | 11.57 | 10.65 | Spain Ptas | 166.38 | 236.76 | S. Africa R | 10.81 |
| Germany DM | 5.88 | 5.07 | Sweden Kr | 2.461 | 2.43 | Switzerland F | 14.01 |
| Greece Dr | 9.34 | 9.59 | Switzerland F | 2.461 | 2.290 | Taiwan NT | 99.975 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 10.16 | 9.38 | Taiwan NT | 99.975 | 99.975 | USA \$ | 1.18 |
| India Rupee | 3.053 | 2.811 | USA \$ | 1.18 | 1.172 | UK £ | 1.00 |
| Indonesia Rp | 1,742 | 1,282 | UK £ | 1.00 | 1.00 | Yen | 100 |
| Ireland P | 1.2184 | 1.1294 | Yen | 100 | 100 | | |

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

30p

THE TIMES

TAXING QUESTIONS. STRAIGHT ANSWERS.

See The Times on Wednesday for a complete breakdown of how the 1999 Budget affects you. Or visit our personal finance website: www.times-money.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

The European Index-Tracking PEP

"Source: Mifit/IGM on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges with gross income reinvested from launch 01.10.98 to 01.05.99. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From the 06.04.99 tax credits on UK dividend distributions will only be able to be reclaimed by PEPs as a reduced rate of 10%. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. The exchange rate variations may cause the value of overseas investments to increase or decrease. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01.05.99. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made in PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available. Legal & General (Direct) Limited, Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 3TF. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and BICAP for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products, hearing Legal & General's name. 16377/1010109/02/99

65.37%* growth in just over 2 years - track our success in Europe

Call freephone

0500 11 66 22

8am to 8pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm weekends. For your protection, calls are not recorded and routinely monitored.

Please quote ref: D6DL13

An annual management charge of only 0.75%

Legal & General

الحكمان الأول

Inche
reco

Accounting
firms set
to merge

NatPower was dead

Vita on the up

Volvo go ahead

Courtauld sale

Thomson

No crumbs of comfort for EMI



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The directors of EMI are clearly a kind and generous bunch. Last April, they handed out £125 million to soothe the feelings of Jim Piffeld. Now they are offering an £800,000 farewell gift to Sir Colin Southgate, as he heads off to spend more time with his opera house. And who should take Sir Colin's well-remunerated place? After employing headhunters to scour the world, the EMI directors plumped for Eric Nicoli. Well, they all know Eric, since he is one of their number, and he could do with a break after all those years labouring at United Biscuits. There were even suggestions that he might soon be in need of a new job if UB shareholders had their way. So who better for the job?

The stock market, alas, is not as kind-hearted as the EMI board. News of Eric Nicoli's appointment resulted in United Biscuits shares rising and EMI's leading in the opposite direction. If Mr Nicoli succeeds in doing for the music company what he has done for UB, then EMI's share price is set to underperform the market even more drastically than it has been doing. It is not for nothing that City wags are apt to abbreviate the UB chief executive's name to E-coli.

But the latest chapter in the EMI saga is no laughing matter. That Sir Colin Southgate should be receiving another year's salary from the company is the sort

of corporate lunacy that investors ought to rise up against. The company was struggling when Sir Colin decided that he could not resist the lure of the Royal Opera House. He took some persuading that he could not be both chairman and effective chief executive of EMI whilst also trying to sort out the most appalling management and financial chaos that had been allowed to develop at Covent Garden. Eventually, however, he was persuaded that there had to be new leadership at EMI.

This would not have been such a problem were it not for the fact that the succession issue at EMI had been so badly bungled, a mess for which Sir Colin must take much of the responsibility. Almost handing over the chief executive baton to Jim Piffeld only to withdraw it at the last moment was a costly mistake.

Now the company has decided that it really does not need a chief executive when it has two such excellent divisional bosses. What it needs is a man of strategic vision and leadership. To those who have watched UB crumble under his eight-year reign as chief executive, this does not sound like Eric Nicoli. But at least there will

be someone sitting in the chair that Sir Colin is voluntarily vacating. But why should Sir Colin be paid to go? His contract has another year to run but it was only ever expected that he would have to fulfil the two years if it took that long to find a successor. He has promised to make himself available to offer advice to Mr Nicoli, who will certainly need it, but the price seems high even for Sir Colin's consultancy.

Brown faces the simplicity test

Wise Chancellors know when to take a rest. If Gordon Brown needed any further evidence that he should deliver a short, broadly neutral Budget today, it was supplied by the latest tidings from Britain's factories. Output has turned up but so, unfortunately, have suppliers' prices. It probably does not mean much, except

that this is not the moment to panic about the economy.

The Treasury has been more optimistic than most and still wants to show enough responsibility to encourage the Bank of England to keep cutting short-term interest rates freely. The Exchange rate seems to be running more than £3 billion higher than the £4.3 billion forecast in November. It should stay above that in 1999-2000 on present policies, so there is not the slightest excuse for fiscal tightening.

Pre-ordained real duty increases on petrol and tobacco should provide enough extra revenue to cut some taxes. For the sake of simplicity and incentives, it should go to raising the basic tax-free income allowance for all, nearer to the level implied by the minimum wage in the spirit of the minimum wage.

Instead, unless the pre-Budget hints have been more than usually misleading, our driven Chancellor will surely bring in a series

of complex tax cuts carefully targeted at deserving groups, such as millionaire high-tech entrepreneurs, at the expense of a series of new tax measures against anti-social people, such as motorists and heirs.

A good if rough and ready way to judge any Budget is to weigh up whether it makes the tax system simpler and more equal for all or more complex, likely to distort people's behaviour and breed loopholes faster than the old ones can be closed.

Last year Mr Brown reformed capital gains tax to make it more penal and much more complex. This year, he is likely to offer new concessions for those who hired the most convincing lobbyists.

A good reform of inheritance tax would slash the top rate to 20 per cent to maximise revenue. A bad one will try to stop people escaping to maximise punishment.

As the Liberals' Malcolm Bruce and almost any tax expert will agree, introducing another

new income tax rate, at 10p, would be daft. Better to cut existing rates. Best to boost the tax-free allowance for all.

New Labour thinks that if you are clever enough, you can cut taxes without benefiting those who pay most. That way lies tax madness and a corrupt economy.

Uncomfortable deal at Chesterfield

Shareholders in Chesterfield, the property company, may be about to lose their chief executive — but only if they vote in favour of a deal that will offer him the chance to run his own, potentially very lucrative, management company.

Robert Maxted has not had a glorious reign at Chesterfield, with the share price ebbing away even faster than the net asset value. Now the company has hit on the idea of breaking itself up. A chunk is to be sold to GE Capital of the United States, and Mr Maxted has agreed a deal with GE whereby his new company will manage the portfolio. He will also look after another couple of sites being sold to Delancey Estates. Mr Maxted is sensibly not resigning his post at Chesterfield unless shareholders vote through the property sales.

The prices are, we are assured, those that Healey & Baker, the valuer, put on the properties at the end of last year: neither GE nor Delancey are being granted specially favourable deals. It would be quite wrong to think that Mr Maxted was gaining undue benefit from the arrangement. On the contrary, although the company would not dream of saying such a thing publicly, it might portray the deal as a clever way of extricating the chief executive without the nuisance of having to pay a hefty severance package.

Roger Wingate, the chairman who owns almost a third of Chesterfield, is happy with the arrangement. Other shareholders might feel uneasy.

Tour guide

THOMSON Travel shares have travelled nowhere since they arrived, packed and all ready for take-off ten months ago, in spite of all the bids and deals suddenly convulsing the industry. Early days perhaps, especially as the vendor's aim was to maximise the proceeds. But it is already beginning to look like another example of the rule that stretches all the way from Eurotunnel via Forte to Sketchley. Never buy a share for the perks unless you reckon you can get your money back from the perks alone.

Inchcape says Asian recovery a year away

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

INCHCAPE, the international vehicle distributor, handed down a worrying prognosis yesterday for companies reliant on South-East Asian markets, saying the first signs of an economic recovery in the region were still at least one year away.

Peter Johnson, who will be the company's next chief executive, said Asian economies were bouncing along the bottom of the cycle.

Mr Johnson, currently head of Inchcape's vehicle division, painted the bleak outlook after Inchcape, whose chairman is Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, unveiled a £297.6 million pre-tax loss for 1998, down from an £89.6 million profit previously.

The red ink was mainly a result of exceptional charges



Marshall oversees disposals

of £403.7 million, most of which stemmed from the write-off of goodwill and lower asset valuations associated with the businesses it sold in the year. However, it also included a £124.7 million write-off of goodwill associated

with the vehicle distribution business.

Pre-tax profit before exceptional charges slumped 42 per cent to £106.1 million. The result was 35 per cent lower than 1997 after allowing for the company's reduced stake in Toyota (GB).

Profit was hit by the weakness in Asian and South American markets as well as the strong pound.

The result was slightly below market expectations and the shares fell 8p to 139p.

A final dividend of 6.6p was declared, taking the year's payout to 11.2p (11p).

Mr Johnson, who will become group chief executive on July 1, said he expected Hong Kong and Singapore markets to deteriorate further this year, although he was confident Inchcape would outperform to record steady earnings there.

Continental Europe would be similar to last year but the UK market was expected to decline by as much as 10 per cent.

The company unveiled plans last year to focus solely on its vehicle distribution business, prompting the sale of its six other businesses.

It has sold four, raising £550 million, and negotiations to sell its interests in Marketing Middle East and Office Automation are expected to be concluded by June and generate a further £100 million.

Inchcape has committed itself to making a cash return to shareholders from the proceeds, with analysts tipping a payout of between 80p and 110p a share.

Mr Johnson said: "It is going to be a tough year. We can perform in tough years but we can't be totally isolated from the conditions."

No cheer for EMI move by Nicoli

THE market gave an uncharitable reception to the news that Eric Nicoli was leaving his job as chief executive of United Biscuits to replace Sir Colin Southgate as chairman of EMI, the music group (See Commentary, this page).

Shares in EMI fell 8p to 440p while United Biscuits rose 2p to 183p. Mr Nicoli will be replaced by Leslie Van Walle, 43, a Frenchman who is chief executive of United Biscuits's McVitie's Group.

United Biscuits, meanwhile, said yesterday that it was in talks to create the UK's largest specialist seafood company, with turnover of £300 million. It announced it was in preliminary discussions with Legal & General about merging its Young's seafood business with L&G's Bluecrest Seafood. The deal is likely to involve a 50-50 joint venture.

SMG in price warning to potential bidders

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

ANDREW FLANAGAN, chief executive of Scottish Media Group, gave warning yesterday that anyone wanting to take over the company would have to "warm up their wallets and pay a big price".

He was responding to growing market speculation that the willingness of Mirror Group to sell its 20 per cent and the possibility that Flextech could be tempted to follow suit with its similarly sized holding.

Mr Flanagan, who said the company wanted to remain independent, said there was no sign of a bidder coming forward.

This was a factor in a 34p drop in SMG's share price yesterday to 848p despite announcing a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to a record £46 million before exceptional charges in the year to December. The shares have enjoyed a recent run after touching a 12-month low of 608p in September. The total dividend rises to 24.2p from 22.5p.

SMG also said yesterday that £7 million in exceptional gains from the failed attempts to acquire Ulster Television and video group VCI were being used to offset the £3.4 million pre-launch costs of the *Sunday Herald* and a £3.8 million write down in the value of the group's newspaper offices after a decision to relocate.

Scottish Radio Holdings yesterday announced its first acquisition in the expanding outdoor advertising market by paying £27.5 million for Trainor, outdoor contractor based in Scotland.

Millennium reinsurance by CMG

CMG, the computer software installation consultant, reassured investors yesterday that it believed it would not be hit by problems in the run up to the millennium date change (Robert Cole writes).

Some fear that computer services companies will see a slowdown in business later this year as customers defer information technology investment programmes until after the turn of the century. Cor Suterheim, the chairman, said: "We are confident that any short-term disruption will not impede CMG's ability to grow ahead of its market in its chosen areas of operation."

CMG reported £57.5 million pre-tax profits, up 49 per cent. Earnings were 30.5p a share (20p). A 4p final dividend makes a 6p total (3.9p).

Tempus, page 30

Accounting firms set to merge

The accountancy firms Pannell Kerr Forster and Robson Rhodes are to merge on May 1. Pannell Robson, will maintain Pannell's place as the eighth-biggest firm in the UK with combined turnover of £120 million and 2,100 staff. Yesterday the firms disclosed that Robson Rhodes' average profits per partner was £90,000 compared with £120,000 for PKF.

NatPower gas deal
National Power moved into the household gas market yesterday by buying Calorex, a joint venture between Texaco and Calor Gas. Analysts estimate National Power paid about £20 million for the business that has assets of £9 million and sales of £77 million.

Vita on the up
British Vita, the industrial plastics group, reported a 10 per cent jump in full-year pre-tax profits before goodwill amortisation to £73.7 million. The group has proposed a final dividend of 4.75p, making a full-year total to 9.25p (8.75p).

Volvo go ahead
Volvo shareholders have authorised the Swedish company to sell its passenger car operation to Ford for £4 billion, opening the door to a £750 million share buyback.

Courtaulds sale
Courtaulds Textiles said yesterday that it is considering selling its furnishings division because it is too small.



Mr Isaacson, Mr Abraham and Paul Rivers, financial director

Tasty Chez Gerard

GROUPE Chez Gerard, the London restaurant operator, demonstrated the resilience of the eating out market yesterday with a 16 per cent rise in half-year profits to almost £2 million (Dominic Walsh writes).

A buoyant Christmas contributed to a 7.7 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the six months to December 27, with

turnover 43 per cent higher at £19.1 million. The second half started slowly. Earnings per share, excluding goodwill amortisation reached 7.7p (7.2p) and the interim dividend rises to 1.27p (1.15p).

The co-founders, Neville Abraham and Laurence Isaacson, rejected suggestions that they are seeking to sell all or part of the company.

Edington quits BAA over listing decision

By CARL MORTSHED

BAA's group property director quit the board yesterday following last week's decision to scrap plans for a separate stock market listing for Lynton, the company's property development arm.

Gordon Edington, who was chief executive of Lynton when it was sold to BAA in 1989, said he would not seek a new role in property but would focus on his family assets and charitable interests.

The airports group was considering the flotation of the non airport-related property assets, totalling some £500 million with Mr Edington at the helm. However, BAA decided against the move, in part due to the poor market perception of property shares.

Mr Edington, 53, is to be replaced as managing director of Lynton by Andrew Jurenko, currently finance director of the property subsidiary.

BAA said yesterday that a separate statement would be made in the annual report concerning any compensation for Mr Edington. He is on a two-year contract and was paid a salary of £240,000 per year in 1998, which could entitle him to £480,000 in compensation.

Mr Edington is president of the British Property Federation and in addition to running BAA's property business, was chairman of BAA International, developing the company's overseas airport business.

Thomson's caution hits shares

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SHARES in Thomson Travel Group (TTG), the market-leading tour operator floated last May amid huge demand from private investors, fell 6 per cent yesterday after the company admitted it was "cautious" about this summer's trading.

Paul Brett, group chief executive, said bookings to date for this summer are 2 per cent down on 1998's figures, al-

though this is better, he said, than the 3 per cent fall across the market as a whole.

TTG, which has made seven acquisitions since floating, is looking to continue its expansion strategy, but Mr Brett said: "There is nothing large on the stocks at the moment, although there is no predicting when a major opportunity may come along." Analysts

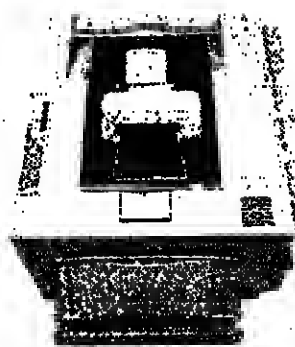
took this to mean that TTG is not among the bidders for First Choice, the number four in the UK market behind Air-Tours and Thomas Cook, which said last week it had received approaches.

TTG posted a 10 per cent rise in pro forma profit before tax to £123 million. The shares, however, fell 10p to 161p against a flotation price of

170p. They had recently recovered from last year's fall which took the price as low as 106p.

A fifth of the 500,000 private investors who bought shares at flotation have exercised their right to a 10 per cent discount on Thomson holidays. The inaugural final dividend is 2.25p, making 3p for the year.

Tempus, page 30



If you thought EPSON lasers were fast, you were right. Because here's an offer the others will have trouble keeping up with. EPSON are giving away a colour inkjet absolutely free with every laser printer purchased. And as they come in personal, network and departmental versions (Network or PostScript), you'll have no problem finding a laser to suit your needs. With a one year warranty and optional three year on-site Cover Plus,

all you'll have to worry about is who's borrowing your inkjet. Call 0800 220546, fax 01442 227271 or visit www.epson.co.uk

*Details of offer: EPL-5700 Laser Range + FREE Stylus Color inkjet. EPL-6700 Range + Stylus Color 440, EPL-6200 Range + Stylus Color 440, EPL-6400 Range + Stylus Color 440, EPL-6200 Range + Stylus Color 740. Subject to availability. Offer applies to purchases between 1st Feb and 30th April. All claims must be made by 30th May. Claims to be made using voucher inside laser printer box.

EPSON. THERE'S NO COMPARISON.

EPSON®

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Pre-Budget nerves keep investors on sidelines

CITY investors were cautious ahead of today's Budget. Hopes that Wall Street could extend last week's record-breaking run and provide London with fresh impetus proved wide of the mark. As a result, share prices found the going difficult with investors happy, instead, to contemplate what the Chancellor may have in store.

The market reversed an early 31-point fall before closing little changed on the day. The FTSE 100 index finished 3.3 up at 6,208.8 in thin trading that saw just 946 million shares change hands. The FTSE 250 index put on 0.8 at 3,599.2.

It was the first day of official trading in South African Breweries, with the price frothing 20p to 485p having started trading last week on the Johannesburg stock market. Almost 2.5 million shares had changed hands. At these levels, the brewer is valued at almost £4 billion, which means it will be automatically catapulted into the top 100 companies when the steering committee meets tomorrow.

Bid talk was responsible for a rise of 8p to 51p in London Furlfiling. A total of 1.23 million shares were traded with some of the buying said to have originated in the US. This has led to claims that a bid of at least 120p a share is being lined up which would value the business at £120 million.

Inn Business, the tenanted pub group, kicked up 5p to 63p on rumours that a recent approach from Enterprise Inns may have sparked interest from other parties. Enterprise, unchanged at 395p, is understood to have made an indicative offer of about 75p, whereas Inn Business is thought to be looking for between 80p and 90p. Alchemy, the venture capitalist, is being tipped as a possible counter-bidder, while Century Inns, off 1p at 100p, is viewed as a potential merger partner.

Alchemy is also in talks to acquire Swallow Group's Vaux Breweries arm for just under £70 million. Although the four-week period of exclusivity has elapsed and there are still issues to be resolved, the two sides are hopeful of tying up a deal in the next ten days. Swallow ended 3p lighter at 286p. Speculative buying lifted Wembley to 371p. SFX Entertainment has confirmed it



Malcolm Paul, finance director, left, and Chris Cole, the managing director, saw WSP shares close up 3p at 186p

will probably make an offer of between 400p and 450p a share, but stopped short of making a formal bid.

A change in recommendation and the shares going ex-dividend left Waste Recycling 19p lower at 516p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, has moved its intermediate recommendation from "neutral" to "reduce". Tadpole Technology retreat-

ed 1 1/2p to 14p after an attempt to dampen down enthusiasm for its Java mobile computing product. The Bristol Water company has been conducting trial runs of Java and last week's presentation was said to have been upbeat.

Servisair receded 5p to 206p up by reports that Amey had no intention of raising its 200p bid for the compa-

ny. Amey, steady at 590p, was quick to pick up on the story saying no one from the company had indicated one way, or the other, whether it will be raising the offer.

Stagecoach firmed 6 1/2p to 246p as Robert Speirs, a non-executive director, bought 15,000 shares at 240p. AAF Industries, controlled by Forward Corporation with 57 per cent of the shares, held steady at 64 1/2p after Andrew Walker, a director, sold his entire holding of 15,000 shares at 65p.

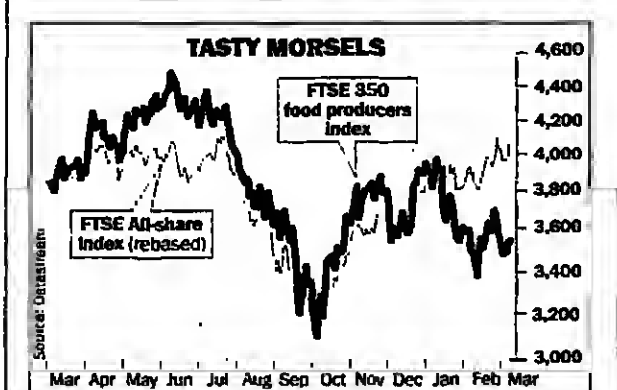
Baron Paul Bysshe, chief executive of Vickers, has acquired a further 13,334 shares at 147 1/2p in the defence group after results last week. It takes his stake to 50,000 shares. The price was 1 1/2p lighter at 146 1/2p. WSP Group, up 3p to 186p, is hitting the acquisition rail both at home and abroad. The news came as the business support group pushed pre-tax profits up from £3.25 million to £4.68 million last year.

The battle for control of the boardroom left Widney, 3p lower at 37 1/2p. The company has been forced to call an extraordinary meeting by Barry Jordan and Stephen Roberts, who between them account for 12.85 per cent of the shares.

City Centre Restaurants finished 2 1/2p cheaper at 56p after abandoning plans to sell 46 Deep Pan Pizza restaurants to Queensborough Holdings.

The small of burnt fingers waited round the market as the price of Corporate Services collapsed 53p to 113p on the back of a profits warning. Punters were piling into the shares on Friday hoping for some good news yesterday. GILTED-EDGED: The London bond market closed lower on the day but was still able to outperform its European counterparts with the help of better than expected industrial output and producer price numbers.

Overall trading conditions proved lacklustre ahead of the Budget. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 2 1/2p lower at £116.37, as 19,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 shed 25p to £145.55, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 eased 2p to £106.40. NEW YORK: US shares were mixed as market bulls cooled their heels after Friday's record-breaking run. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 27.62 points to 9,708.46.



UNILEVER'S generosity in handing back £5 billion to shareholders has had only a marginal impact on the food manufacturing sector. But Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is happy to move its recommendation for the Anglo-Dutch food group from "sell" to "hold" and has upgraded the sector generally from "underweight" to "neutral". Graham Jones at DKB says: "The results season, so far, has produced few surprises, but the sector continues to underperform

relative to the rest of the market." But a clearer picture of the industry has emerged and there are stocks that DKB is keen to recommend to clients. Top of its shopping list is Cadbury Schweppes, 1p lighter at 960 1/2p, having briefly moved above the £10 level. Also on its list are Perkins, 1/2p cheaper at 106 1/2p, PIC International, 1/2p dearer at 67 1/2p, Terranova, 1/2p firmer at 75 1/2p, and Robert Wistman, steady at 195p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9708.46 (-27.62)
S&P Composite 1214.74 (-4.79)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 14770.65 (-114.96)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12293.99 (+22.87)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 325.52 (+4.03)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2529.64 (+27.11)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4708.68 (-50.40)

Singapore:
Straits 1451.61 (+1.18)

Brussels:
BEL 3322.45 (-23.72)

Paris:
CAC-40 4175.97 (-43.59)

Zurich:
SMI Index 7185.91 (-27.4)

London:
FTSE 100 6208.8 (+3.3)

FTSE 250 3599.2 (+0.8)

FTSE 1000 10000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000 10000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000 100000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000 1000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000 10000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000 100000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000 1000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000 10000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000 100000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000 1000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000 10000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000 100000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000 1000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000 10000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000 100000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000 1000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000000 10000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000000 100000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000000 1000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000000000 10000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000000000 100000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000000000 1000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000000000000 10000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000000000000 100000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000000000000 1000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000000000000000 10000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000000000000000 100000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000000000000000 1000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000000000000000000 10000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000000000000000000 100000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000000000000000000 1000000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000000000000000000000 10000000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000000000000000000000 100000000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000000000000000000000 1000000000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 10000000000000000000000000000000000000 10000000000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100000000000000000000000000000000000000 100000000000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000000000000000000000000000000 1000000000000000000000000000000000000000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 100 100.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 1000.0 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000000000000

Brown should be thankful for a Keynesian bequest

The Chancellor owes a debt of gratitude to two men who reformed Tory economic policy

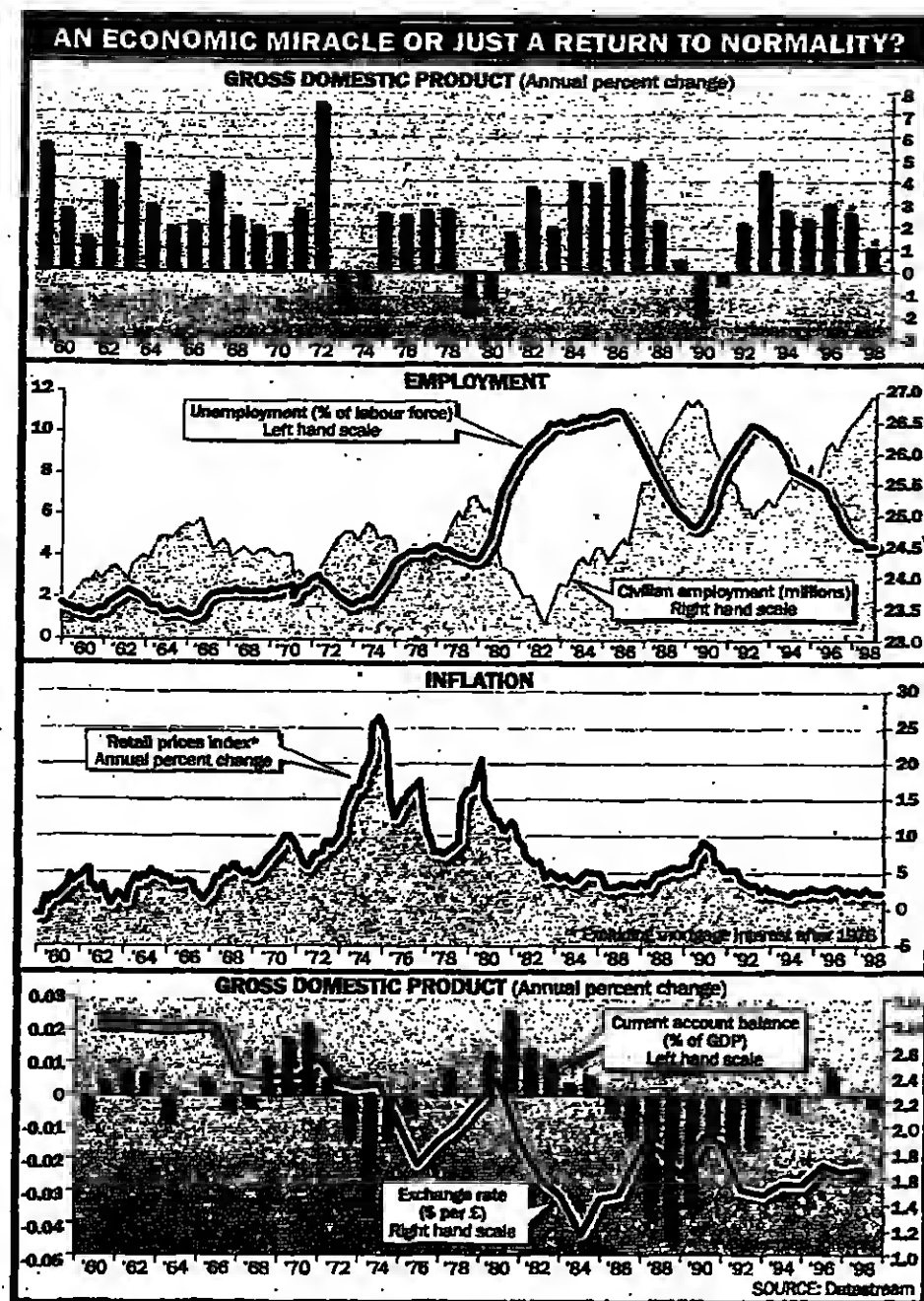
Since it is now too late to speculate about the contents of this afternoon's Budget — and since most people do not seem very interested anyway in what the Chancellor may or may not propose — this article will look at the Budget from another point of view. It seems that Gordon Brown has lived up to the highest aspiration proposed for the economics profession by Keynes. In a properly run economy, Keynes once said, economics should be about as much public interest and political controversy as dentistry. This admirable definition of the intellectual value of economics raises two questions about the state of the British economy today.

Has Britain really attained the happy state of economic serenity in which arguments about interest rates, inflation and unemployment can be cleared off the newspaper front pages? And if Britain has reached the nirvana of low inflation, full employment and adequate economic growth, should the credit go to the Chancellor, the Bank of England or simply to good luck?

A few weeks ago, even to ask the first question would have been considered an insult to the memory of the thousands of businesses and jobs which were going to die in the great recession about to engulf Britain. However favourable the numbers published by the Treasury on tax revenues, deficits and public spending, the City, business community, media and, of course, the Conservative Party, seemed united in their conviction that Britain was on the brink of an economic collapse.

In the past few weeks, though, confidence has suddenly returned. Retailers, estate agents and car dealers report clear signs of reviving demand. Industrialists and even exporters are more optimistic than they have been since last summer. And the financial community has moved in record time through one of its manic depressive swings. Yesterday Merrill Lynch reported the biggest rise in optimism about the British economy since its monthly surveys of fund manager opinion began in July 1990.

What has happened to inspire this sudden turnaround? I think the most plausible answer is the triumph of Keynesian dentistry over ideological economics. Businessmen, financiers and consumers have gradually realised that the British economy is now being managed in a professional, competent and thoroughly boring manner. The Treasury and the Bank of England are united in the objectives of maintaining



low inflation, full employment and substantial economic growth. The fairly mechanistic principles of Keynesian economic dentistry show that, most of the time, it should be perfectly possible for an active policy of demand management to hit all these targets. As they begin to understand and believe this, British businessmen and consumers are starting to behave on the assumption that full employment, low inflation and adequate growth will, in fact, be maintained most of the time.

This is, I believe, the best way to explain the apparent miracle of economic stability in Britain. In fact, as shown in the charts above, the present stability is no miracle at all. British has merely returned to the conditions of full employment that were typical in the 1950s and 1960s. Until the mid-1970s it was taken for granted that the world over that the primary economic responsibility of governments and central banks was to maintain full employment by managing demand. Because businessmen and consumers believed this, they invested and spent money on the assumption that full employment and steady growth would, in fact, be maintained. As a result of this, recessions were extremely

unusual and were very brief when they did occur. The main macroeconomic reason why Britain performed so much worse than most other economies during this Keynesian golden age was a persistent problem with the balance of payments. This trade problem was, in turn, largely attributable to the overvalued pound that Britain foolishly tried to "defend" at a time when Germany, France, Italy and Japan were all benefiting from their drastically devalued postwar exchange rates.

Perhaps the biggest and most encouraging difference between the present period and the postwar decades is that Britain no longer seems to find too much difficulty in maintaining a decent balance of payments. Another way of saying this is that Britain's relative costs, even at the present exchange rate, are extremely competitive, especially in comparison with those of Germany and other European neighbours. This suggests that the present period is, for all the squeals of industry, not nearly as overvalued as in the period of balance of payments crises up to 1976. This short historical digression shows why Gordon Brown has been able to maintain his reputation as an "iron chancellor" while handing out dollops of money and tax cuts to sustain the Government's popularity and start to attain some of Labour's social objectives. As long as the economy is growing it is fairly easy to present a Budget that is simultaneously responsible, popular and rather boring as Mr Brown will this afternoon. Provided the economy is not in recession, there is plenty of automatic revenue growth built into the British tax system. Without any need to change legislation, petrol and tobacco duties keep rising at rates far above inflation. And as long as real wages are rising, even at a modest rate, the revenue from a progressive income tax system automatically goes up much faster than national income. This creates a big and very profitable loophole for the Treasury in the system of indexation introduced by the Tories to stop income taxes rising automatically and surreptitiously through "bracket creep".

Taken together, all of the in-built sources of automatic "dynamism" in the tax system can allow any Chancellor to keep his promises of higher public spending and still have some capacity to spare for a few well-targeted tax cuts and training and enterprise programmes, as well as the odd popular lollipop in the social services. In other words, the alpha and omega of successful Budget policy is full employment and adequate economic growth. As long as recession is avoided, therefore, budgetary policy can be confined largely to technical issues of primary interest to finance directors and accountants. On issues such as inheritance tax or fiscal incentives for marriage there will still be legitimate political argument. But these arguments are — or should be — about justice, income distribution and social engineering. They are not about economic efficiency, still less about such macroeconomic issues as unemployment and inflation. Success or failure on the macroeconomic front depends far less on the political and social issues involved in the structure of the tax system than on the monetary decisions now made by the Bank — and these monetary decisions, in turn, largely determine the fiscal way available to the Chancellor to address his political and social aspirations.

It brings me back to the second question I asked at the start of this article. Who should get the credit for the good macroeconomic prospects that should allow Mr Brown to present a successful Budget this afternoon? The standard answer is either the Bank of England, for having successfully managed monetary policy, or Mr Brown himself, for having the foresight to hand over monetary management to the Bank. But one only has to look at the European Central Bank in Frankfurt to see that central bank independence does not, by itself, promote either stability or full employment.

The real authors of Britain's present economic prosperity — and of the present Chancellor's good fortune — were Kenneth Clarke and Norman Lamont. After Mr Brown made the Bank independent in 1997 it was fashionable to pour scorn on Mr Clarke for "politicising" monetary policy by failing to raise interest rates before the election. But given the abrupt strengthening of sterling and the subsequent slowdown of the British economy, it is certainly arguable that, in what was never more than a marginal disagreement, Mr Clarke was right and the overly hawkish Bank was wrong. More importantly, the last two Tory Chancellors were the men who threw out the monetarist philosophy at the Treasury after White Wednesday and dedicated macroeconomic policy to the achievement of full employment and the active management of demand. It was, ironically, the Tories who brought Keynesian economics back to both the Treasury and the Bank of England. This intellectual revolution was the true "golden legacy" they bequeathed to Gordon Brown.

Now, taking up the role of non-executive chairman at Jensen, the luxury sportscar maker that is being revived with a new model, Morris told me that he has indeed had approaches from publishing to tell his side of the story. Alas, he would quite like to stay working in the motor trade so those expressions of interest have had to be rebuffed. For now at least.

MARTIN WALLER
city.dial@the-times.co.uk



"Of course it's not working, it's got biscuit crumbs all over it"

ECB bowls virtual sponsors an unplayable delivery

Opponents of the European Commission's plans to place a ban on tobacco advertising will be disappointed by the news that the ECB has given up on its sneaky attempt to circumvent the ban during this summer's Cricket World Cup. The ECB had planned what it calls "virtual advertisements". These are specially treated patches of grass on the cricket field or blank perimeter boards on which different advertising logos could be projected for broadcast in different territories. The idea was that when the TV pictures were beamed back to India, for example, adverts for Wills cigarettes could be inserted, so giving the ECB revenue from the makers but avoiding the wrath of Frank Dobson and the EU.

The ECB has tested this technology on two occasions, once during the South Africa v England test match in Cape Town last March and during the triangular one-day tournament last August. Both trials went well and the ECB tells me that it is keen to use the technology again. However, on this occasion, it has been dropped for what the ECB calls "financial and logistical reasons".

The glasses that have been sweeping through the ECB since Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth became chairman has not gone far enough for the organisation to go into any more detail. But I suspect that the amount Wills was willing to pay for the pleasure of this sponsorship was not enough for the ECB to sort out the technical issues, give a slice to the television broadcaster and still achieve a sensible profit.

It is not as if cricket is so flush with money that it can turn sponsors away. For the World Cup, the ECB has four backers each paying £2 million for the pleasure of using the World Cup logo and having a patch of grass to themselves at all the World Cup venues.

Two of the sponsors are long-running friends of the ECB — NatWest, which has its own one-day trophy, and Vodafone, which shares Lord MacLaurin as chairman and is already putting £15 million towards England's national team. Both are starting large promotional pushes linked to the cricket World Cup, and are pleased that there is not any important football this summer to get in the way of putting their message in front of key ABCI males, who tend to make up the cricket-watching audience.

The two other sponsors are



JASON NISSE

relatively new. Pepsi has never sponsored cricket in the UK, and its sponsorship will be targeted at India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, where it has a big battle on with Coca-Cola. During the last Cricket World Cup, which was in the sub-continent, Coke was the official sponsor and Pepsi ambushed the sponsorship, signing up leading cricketers such as Sachin Tendulkar and using the slogan "nothing official about it". The final sponsor is Emirates Airlines, which backed last year's triangular tournament and is pushing new routes to Australia.

Four is not many lead sponsors for an important competition and if the virtual sponsorship had worked it would have been a boon. And not only to the ECB. There will be quite a few sporting organisations who will be disappointed that the ECB is not going through with the experiment.

Take rugby union's five nations' championship. It has a

lucrative sponsorship deal with Lloyds TSB, which got an early shock when England were nearly kicked out of the competition. However, it has also had problems with displaying the sponsors' name on the pitch. Last month's international between France and Ireland at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, will go down in history because the pain used to display the Lloyds TSB symbol in the centre of the pitch came off on the players.

This incident led the various rugby football unions to decide to restrict the sponsors' signage to just the "in goal" areas, which only tend to come on screen when tries are being scored. This of course cuts the amount of exposure Lloyds TSB will have this season.

Rugby would be a good target for virtual advertising, as would football, where it is hard to paint the pitch because the players' studs churn it up too much. Also in motor racing, cars can be projected with different liveries in different territories, again sidestepping the tobacco sponsorship rules. This would relieve the BAT team of the problem it has with the FIA, which runs Formula One and will not allow it to paint its cars in different colours, advertising different products for the same race.

The future of sponsorship is virtually upon us.

Jason Nisse@the-times.co.uk



Face painting: Ireland's Keith Wood with wood woes

Mis-selling of MPPI must be avoided

From the Deputy Director-General, Council of Mortgage Lenders

Sir, The editorial in today's Times (March 3) offers a very negative view of mortgage payment protection insurance. Such concerns have been central to the work which has been undertaken and that will continue. The industry will obviously want to respond to the Insurance Ombudsman's concerns but, in the meantime, one clarification is required regarding the target. The aim is certainly to increase take up and to get all those who need MPPI to take it out. However, any agreed

Your editorial suggesting that making sure the policies are necessary (ie, targeted at the right people) and effective (will pay out on the main insurable risks) is a reasonable stance. Such concerns have been central to the work which has been undertaken and that will continue. The industry will obviously want to respond to the Insurance Ombudsman's concerns but, in the meantime, one clarification is required regarding the target. The aim is certainly to increase take up and to get all those who need MPPI to take it out. However, any agreed

target will always be subject to two key provisos. First, that whether it can be achieved or not will be strongly influenced by circumstances in the economy and second, the target is an estimate of those who need it. Because mis-selling must not occur, the target itself must be treated as intended: simply a best estimate of need.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WILLIAMS,
Deputy Director-General,
Council of Mortgage Lenders,
3 Savile Row,
London,
W1X 1AF.

Loyal toast

CONSTERNATION at the Mansion House at a lunch yesterday for the King of Swaziland, in town on an official visit. All was going well until the toast. No problem with the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene of Portsmouth. Then the toastmaster cried: "Raise your glasses for Mswati III of Swaziland." There was suddenly the most awkward of silences as the Swazi language, from the King's retinue. Everyone looked appalled. Some terrible breach of protocol, perhaps?

It seems that it is the Swazi custom that the King never rises to a chorus of praise.



King Mswati III: only rises to a chorus of praise

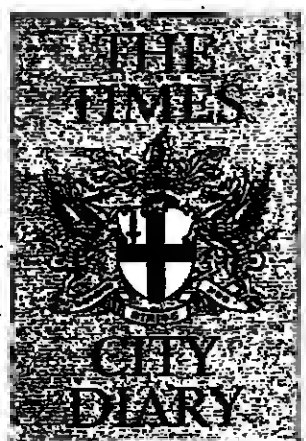
except to a chorus of praise. The noise was merely his own people carrying out their ceremonial duties. "The King looked completely unperturbed," says my source. "He's obviously quite used to it."

"IT MAY be right to sell bonds," begins the latest research note from Capel-Cure Sharp, "but then again it may not." There follows lots of terribly impressive stuff about US monetary policy, interest rates and French and German inflation. But I rather think the first sentence says it all.

Taxing times

AS THE Chancellor prepares to deliver his Budget, I understand that relations are still strained with the Inland Revenue after last year's statement. This contained a couple of measures on taxation that came as a surprise to the tax experts, who might reasonably have hoped to be consulted beforehand.

As a result, morale is low; the Revenue, some say, is treated simply as a means of getting the tax in, and Gordon Brown and his Treasury men rarely listen to anything



they provide in the way of advice. I suspect that the Revenue will be listening as intently as anyone to this afternoon's statement.

THEY are rather fonder of the Chancellor round at Deloitte & Touche. The accountant has landed the dream team for its Budget breakfast briefing tomorrow, comprising Gordon Brown, Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Barbara Roche, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

The strong showing by the Government may be because Deloitte, as well as sending the briefing by satellite to its offices around the country, will also broadcast it live on the Web. The accountant last year snaffled the appropriate name for its specialist site.

www.ukbudget.com. "Nobody else can use it now," a self-satisfied Deloitte staffer tells me.

Wet look

IF YOU are one of thousands of commuters horribly delayed this week by Thames Water's new reservoir on the North Circular, you have only yourself to blame for living in North London.

There, that should be good for a few days' hate mail. But I can offer a much quicker way of checking on the flood waters than listening to traffic reports. Mazware, a website designer that overlooks the scene, has put the view from its office window on its own website, www.mazware.com, updated every 20 seconds. My, it does look wet.

THIS will, I promise, be the first and last mention of That Woman, but as she arrives in this country, a reader has been rummaging in the special effects box of his personal computer and come across a typeface called MonicaHand. It is described by Microsoft as "a True Type", whatever that may be. "It looks a bit shaky to me," he says.

Log book

HE WAS the boss of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars when it was

so clumsily auctioned to the Germans, so you would think Graham Morris has a racy tale to tell. Money, rivalry, betrayal — plus a low-comedy subplot when patriotic owners try to buy the company with a few beads, a tortoise and a piece of string.

Now, taking up the role of non-executive chairman at Jensen, the luxury sportscar maker that is being revived with a new model, Morris told me that he has indeed had approaches from publishing to tell his side of the story. Alas, he would quite like to stay working in the motor trade so those expressions of interest have had to be rebuffed. For now at least.

MARTIN WALLER
city.dial@the-times.co.uk

Brands and supermarkets

From Mr Stephen Sidkin

Sir, Parallel importers point to the overcharging by brand owners (The Times, February 26). But the question must be asked as to who created the desirability of the branded product.

It is only by the investment made by brand owners in developing a market that parallel importers can exist. Under the smokescreen of benefiting consumers, parallel importers feed off the demand that has been created for them.

This assists supermarkets

engaged in parallel importing as a way of maximising market share. This has been clear since the events leading up to the 1992 Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into fine fragrances. But in view of the current competition investigation into supermarket pricing, there is a delicious taste of irony in the supermarkets' claim to advance consumers' interests by parallel importing.

At the same time it must be questioned as to how much the law needs to change. A parallel importer from the US into the UK may be able to take advantage of the Trade Marks Act 1994. This permits a third party to use a registered trade

mark so as to identify goods as belonging to the trade mark owner. This is subject to the requirement that such use is in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters.

The purpose of this statutory provision is to allow comparative advertising. Whether it can be relied on by the parallel importer depends on his actions being in accordance with such practices and judicial interpretation.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SIDKIN,
Partner, Fox Williams,
City Gate House,
39-45 Finsbury Square,
London,
EC2A 1JU.

City sonnets

From Ms Rosamund Smith

Sir, Why are City businesses making an increasing use of poetry? The article "Sonnets in the City" (Business News, February 27) was refreshing in not trivialising the Poet in the City initiative and the role of the arts in the Square Mile. Corporate reading and writing of poetry is not the latest executive

gimmick, a flash-in-the-pan human resources tool, or even just plain self-indulgence. John Mole, the City of London's first official poet, is creating a dialogue both inside and between City businesses and local schools. Poetry is the community broker to connect the City business that questions involvement because it does not recruit children from Tower Hamlets schools and the school that assumes City businesses will force its classrooms

to be renamed after banks. Unsurprisingly, Nobel prizewinner Seamus Heaney puts it best: poetry is "like the writing in the sand in the face of which accusers and accused are left speechless and renewed".

Yours faithfully,
ROSAMUND SMITH,
Chair, Poet in the City,
Bates, Wells and Braithwaite Solicitors,
Cheapside House,
138 Cheapside,
London, EC2V 6BW.

Numbers that count in the Budget

| CURRENT POSITION | WHAT THE EXPERTS PREDICT | ECONOMY | WHAT HAPPENS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-------|------|------|-----------|------|-------|-------|------|------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|-----|-----|-------|----|-----|--|--|--|
| <table><tr><td></td><td>1999</td><td>2000</td></tr><tr><td>Treasury:</td><td>1-1.5</td><td>2.25-2.75</td></tr><tr><td>City:</td><td>0.6</td><td>1.8</td></tr><tr><td>Treasury:</td><td>1.3</td><td>2.1</td></tr><tr><td>City:</td><td>2.5</td><td>2.5</td></tr><tr><td>Treasury:</td><td>2.2</td><td>2.2</td></tr><tr><td>City:</td><td>1.55</td><td>1.75</td></tr><tr><td>Treasury:</td><td>-7.5</td><td>-8.75</td></tr><tr><td>City:</td><td>-5.8</td><td>-6.8</td></tr><tr><td>Treasury:</td><td>1998-99</td><td>1999-2000</td></tr><tr><td>City:</td><td>4.3</td><td>2.0</td></tr><tr><td>City:</td><td>-7</td><td>1.0</td></tr></table> | | 1999 | 2000 | Treasury: | 1-1.5 | 2.25-2.75 | City: | 0.6 | 1.8 | Treasury: | 1.3 | 2.1 | City: | 2.5 | 2.5 | Treasury: | 2.2 | 2.2 | City: | 1.55 | 1.75 | Treasury: | -7.5 | -8.75 | City: | -5.8 | -6.8 | Treasury: | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | City: | 4.3 | 2.0 | City: | -7 | 1.0 | | | |
| | 1999 | 2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Treasury: | 1-1.5 | 2.25-2.75 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | 0.6 | 1.8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Treasury: | 1.3 | 2.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | 2.5 | 2.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Treasury: | 2.2 | 2.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | 1.55 | 1.75 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Treasury: | -7.5 | -8.75 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | -5.8 | -6.8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Treasury: | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | 4.3 | 2.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | -7 | 1.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HOUSING | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mortgage interest relief at source (MIRS) currently stands at 10 per cent on the first £30,000 of the loan. Currently there is no stamp duty on properties valued at less than £50,000. For properties worth between £50,000 and £250,000 the stamp duty is 1 per cent. For properties valued between £250,000 and £500,000 the duty is 2 per cent, and properties worth more than £500,000 have a duty of 3 per cent. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EXCISE DUTIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spirits: 75cl bottle: £1.80. Alcopops (4.5%): 21p. Wine: 75cl bottle: £1.12. Cider (1.1%): 25.3p. Lager (4.5%): 25.8p. Beer (3.4%): 25.5p. 4 large cans (500ml): 83p. Spirits (70cl bottle, 40% proof): £5.48. Cigarettes (pack of 20): £2.31. Hand-rolling tobacco (25g): £2.19. Pipe tobacco (25g): £1.29. Petrol (11p unleaded): 71.8p. Petrol (11p unleaded): 85.5p. Diesel (11p): 66.8p. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PENSIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| You can contribute up to 15 per cent of your salary to a company pension, with varying limits for personal pensions. The elderly with savings of £16,000 plus must contribute to care. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAVINGS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Personal equity plans (PEPs) and tax-exempt special savings accounts (lessors) are to be replaced by individual savings accounts (ISAs) on April 6. ISAs will have an investment limit of £7,000 in 1999-2000 and £5,000 thereafter. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INCOME TAX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| £4,195 (under 65); £5,430 (65-74); £5,600 (over 75). These amounts represent the amount that can be earned before being liable to pay tax. Allowances for those aged 65 and above are subject to an income limit of £16,200. Lower rate: 20%; Basic Rate: 23%; Higher rate: 40%. Lower rate (20%): up to £4,300; Basic rate (23%): £4,301-£27,100; Higher rate (40%): excess over £27,100. Non-residents are exempt from income tax on foreign income. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BUSINESS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Standard rate 31 per cent (to be reduced to 30 per cent April 1). Smaller companies rate 21 per cent (to be reduced to 20% April 1). Smaller companies limit: £300,000. Will be abolished from April 6. Temporary 40 per cent first year allowance for plant and machinery for small companies expires July 1. Interest relief of 100 per cent if business owned for 2 years or more. Relief as any other expenditure. Nothing in place at present. Relief of 25 per cent on qualifying capital expenditure. Now stands at £1.5 million. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employee share schemes are complex and expensive to set up for smaller and unlisted companies. There are four million employee shareholders in the UK but only two thirds of companies employing fewer than 100 have share schemes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VAT AND INDIRECT TAXATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Standard rate: 17.5%. Fuel rate: 5%. Registration limit: £50,000. 4% on all policies except the 17.5% on travel insurance. There is little anti-avoidance legislation at present. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NATIONAL INSURANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employees earning more than £94 per week pay 2 per cent on earnings up to the maximum of £4,885. Already announced: Employees' NI contributions threshold to be aligned with that of employers. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAPITAL TAXES AND INHERITANCE TAX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Annual exemption: £3,000. Tax paid on income tax rates. Exemption: £3,000 per donor. Exemptions for gifts to spouse and seven years' residence. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GREEN TAXES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parking provided by employers is tax-free. Fuel benefit is reduced where business mileage exceeds 18,000 miles per year. Already announced: road fuel duties will be increased by at least 6 per cent each year. The duty on ordinary diesel will increase relative to unleaded petrol. The duty differential between ultra-low sulphur diesel and ordinary diesel to be increased. Higher rates of vehicle excise duty for heavy goods vehicles. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAX AND THE FAMILY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2001-02: £2,300 (65-74); £3,345 (over 75). Reduced rates for lower earners: £2,300 (65-74); £3,345 (over 75). A week rising in April to £34.40 for the first child; £9.90 a week for subsequent children. Rising to £35.50. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1999 Low High Company Price % Chg P/E | | | | 1999 Low High Company Price % Chg P/E | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|-----|---------------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | | | | | | | |
| 115 | 115.00 | 115.00 | 115 | 115.25 | +0.25 | 0.2 | 11.5 |
| 116 | 116.00 | 115.50 | 116 | 115.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 11.6 |
| 117 | 117.00 | 116.50 | 117 | 116.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 11.7 |
| 118 | 118.00 | 117.50 | 118 | 117.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 11.8 |
| 119 | 119.00 | 118.50 | 119 | 118.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 11.9 |
| 120 | 120.00 | 119.50 | 120 | 119.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.0 |
| 121 | 121.00 | 120.50 | 121 | 120.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.1 |
| 122 | 122.00 | 121.50 | 122 | 121.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.2 |
| 123 | 123.00 | 122.50 | 123 | 122.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.3 |
| 124 | 124.00 | 123.50 | 124 | 123.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.4 |
| 125 | 125.00 | 124.50 | 125 | 124.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.5 |
| 126 | 126.00 | 125.50 | 126 | 125.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.6 |
| 127 | 127.00 | 126.50 | 127 | 126.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.7 |
| 128 | 128.00 | 127.50 | 128 | 127.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.8 |
| 129 | 129.00 | 128.50 | 129 | 128.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 12.9 |
| 130 | 130.00 | 129.50 | 130 | 129.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.0 |
| 131 | 131.00 | 130.50 | 131 | 130.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.1 |
| 132 | 132.00 | 131.50 | 132 | 131.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.2 |
| 133 | 133.00 | 132.50 | 133 | 132.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.3 |
| 134 | 134.00 | 133.50 | 134 | 133.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.4 |
| 135 | 135.00 | 134.50 | 135 | 134.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.5 |
| 136 | 136.00 | 135.50 | 136 | 135.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.6 |
| 137 | 137.00 | 136.50 | 137 | 136.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.7 |
| 138 | 138.00 | 137.50 | 138 | 137.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.8 |
| 139 | 139.00 | 138.50 | 139 | 138.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 13.9 |
| 140 | 140.00 | 139.50 | 140 | 139.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.0 |
| 141 | 141.00 | 140.50 | 141 | 140.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.1 |
| 142 | 142.00 | 141.50 | 142 | 141.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.2 |
| 143 | 143.00 | 142.50 | 143 | 142.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.3 |
| 144 | 144.00 | 143.50 | 144 | 143.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.4 |
| 145 | 145.00 | 144.50 | 145 | 144.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.5 |
| 146 | 146.00 | 145.50 | 146 | 145.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.6 |
| 147 | 147.00 | 146.50 | 147 | 146.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.7 |
| 148 | 148.00 | 147.50 | 148 | 147.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.8 |
| 149 | 149.00 | 148.50 | 149 | 148.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 14.9 |
| 150 | 150.00 | 149.50 | 150 | 149.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.0 |
| 151 | 151.00 | 150.50 | 151 | 150.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.1 |
| 152 | 152.00 | 151.50 | 152 | 151.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.2 |
| 153 | 153.00 | 152.50 | 153 | 152.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.3 |
| 154 | 154.00 | 153.50 | 154 | 153.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.4 |
| 155 | 155.00 | 154.50 | 155 | 154.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.5 |
| 156 | 156.00 | 155.50 | 156 | 155.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.6 |
| 157 | 157.00 | 156.50 | 157 | 156.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.7 |
| 158 | 158.00 | 157.50 | 158 | 157.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.8 |
| 159 | 159.00 | 158.50 | 159 | 158.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 15.9 |
| 160 | 160.00 | 159.50 | 160 | 159.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.0 |
| 161 | 161.00 | 160.50 | 161 | 160.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.1 |
| 162 | 162.00 | 161.50 | 162 | 161.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.2 |
| 163 | 163.00 | 162.50 | 163 | 162.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.3 |
| 164 | 164.00 | 163.50 | 164 | 163.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.4 |
| 165 | 165.00 | 164.50 | 165 | 164.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.5 |
| 166 | 166.00 | 165.50 | 166 | 165.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.6 |
| 167 | 167.00 | 166.50 | 167 | 166.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.7 |
| 168 | 168.00 | 167.50 | 168 | 167.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.8 |
| 169 | 169.00 | 168.50 | 169 | 168.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 16.9 |
| 170 | 170.00 | 169.50 | 170 | 169.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.0 |
| 171 | 171.00 | 170.50 | 171 | 170.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.1 |
| 172 | 172.00 | 171.50 | 172 | 171.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.2 |
| 173 | 173.00 | 172.50 | 173 | 172.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.3 |
| 174 | 174.00 | 173.50 | 174 | 173.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.4 |
| 175 | 175.00 | 174.50 | 175 | 174.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.5 |
| 176 | 176.00 | 175.50 | 176 | 175.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.6 |
| 177 | 177.00 | 176.50 | 177 | 176.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.7 |
| 178 | 178.00 | 177.50 | 178 | 177.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.8 |
| 179 | 179.00 | 178.50 | 179 | 178.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 17.9 |
| 180 | 180.00 | 179.50 | 180 | 179.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.0 |
| 181 | 181.00 | 180.50 | 181 | 180.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.1 |
| 182 | 182.00 | 181.50 | 182 | 181.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.2 |
| 183 | 183.00 | 182.50 | 183 | 182.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.3 |
| 184 | 184.00 | 183.50 | 184 | 183.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.4 |
| 185 | 185.00 | 184.50 | 185 | 184.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.5 |
| 186 | 186.00 | 185.50 | 186 | 185.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.6 |
| 187 | 187.00 | 186.50 | 187 | 186.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.7 |
| 188 | 188.00 | 187.50 | 188 | 187.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.8 |
| 189 | 189.00 | 188.50 | 189 | 188.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 18.9 |
| 190 | 190.00 | 189.50 | 190 | 189.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.0 |
| 191 | 191.00 | 190.50 | 191 | 190.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.1 |
| 192 | 192.00 | 191.50 | 192 | 191.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.2 |
| 193 | 193.00 | 192.50 | 193 | 192.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.3 |
| 194 | 194.00 | 193.50 | 194 | 193.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.4 |
| 195 | 195.00 | 194.50 | 195 | 194.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.5 |
| 196 | 196.00 | 195.50 | 196 | 195.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.6 |
| 197 | 197.00 | 196.50 | 197 | 196.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.7 |
| 198 | 198.00 | 197.50 | 198 | 197.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.8 |
| 199 | 199.00 | 198.50 | 199 | 198.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 19.9 |
| 200 | 200.00 | 199.50 | 200 | 199.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.0 |
| 201 | 201.00 | 200.50 | 201 | 200.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.1 |
| 202 | 202.00 | 201.50 | 202 | 201.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.2 |
| 203 | 203.00 | 202.50 | 203 | 202.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.3 |
| 204 | 204.00 | 203.50 | 204 | 203.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.4 |
| 205 | 205.00 | 204.50 | 205 | 204.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.5 |
| 206 | 206.00 | 205.50 | 206 | 205.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.6 |
| 207 | 207.00 | 206.50 | 207 | 206.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.7 |
| 208 | 208.00 | 207.50 | 208 | 207.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.8 |
| 209 | 209.00 | 208.50 | 209 | 208.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 20.9 |
| 210 | 210.00 | 209.50 | 210 | 209.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.0 |
| 211 | 211.00 | 210.50 | 211 | 210.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.1 |
| 212 | 212.00 | 211.50 | 212 | 211.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.2 |
| 213 | 213.00 | 212.50 | 213 | 212.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.3 |
| 214 | 214.00 | 213.50 | 214 | 213.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.4 |
| 215 | 215.00 | 214.50 | 215 | 214.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.5 |
| 216 | 216.00 | 215.50 | 216 | 215.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.6 |
| 217 | 217.00 | 216.50 | 217 | 216.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.7 |
| 218 | 218.00 | 217.50 | 218 | 217.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.8 |
| 219 | 219.00 | 218.50 | 219 | 218.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 21.9 |
| 220 | 220.00 | 219.50 | 220 | 219.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.0 |
| 221 | 221.00 | 220.50 | 221 | 220.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.1 |
| 222 | 222.00 | 221.50 | 222 | 221.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.2 |
| 223 | 223.00 | 222.50 | 223 | 222.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.3 |
| 224 | 224.00 | 223.50 | 224 | 223.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.4 |
| 225 | 225.00 | 224.50 | 225 | 224.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.5 |
| 226 | 226.00 | 225.50 | 226 | 225.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.6 |
| 227 | 227.00 | 226.50 | 227 | 226.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.7 |
| 228 | 228.00 | 227.50 | 228 | 227.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.8 |
| 229 | 229.00 | 228.50 | 229 | 228.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 22.9 |
| 230 | 230.00 | 229.50 | 230 | 229.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.0 |
| 231 | 231.00 | 230.50 | 231 | 230.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.1 |
| 232 | 232.00 | 231.50 | 232 | 231.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.2 |
| 233 | 233.00 | 232.50 | 233 | 232.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.3 |
| 234 | 234.00 | 233.50 | 234 | 233.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.4 |
| 235 | 235.00 | 234.50 | 235 | 234.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.5 |
| 236 | 236.00 | 235.50 | 236 | 235.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.6 |
| 237 | 237.00 | 236.50 | 237 | 236.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.7 |
| 238 | 238.00 | 237.50 | 238 | 237.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.8 |
| 239 | 239.00 | 238.50 | 239 | 238.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 23.9 |
| 240 | 240.00 | 239.50 | 240 | 239.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.0 |
| 241 | 241.00 | 240.50 | 241 | 240.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.1 |
| 242 | 242.00 | 241.50 | 242 | 241.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.2 |
| 243 | 243.00 | 242.50 | 243 | 242.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.3 |
| 244 | 244.00 | 243.50 | 244 | 243.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.4 |
| 245 | 245.00 | 244.50 | 245 | 244.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.5 |
| 246 | 246.00 | 245.50 | 246 | 245.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.6 |
| 247 | 247.00 | 246.50 | 247 | 246.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.7 |
| 248 | 248.00 | 247.50 | 248 | 247.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.8 |
| 249 | 249.00 | 248.50 | 249 | 248.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 24.9 |
| 250 | 250.00 | 249.50 | 250 | 249.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.0 |
| 251 | 251.00 | 250.50 | 251 | 250.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.1 |
| 252 | 252.00 | 251.50 | 252 | 251.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.2 |
| 253 | 253.00 | 252.50 | 253 | 252.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.3 |
| 254 | 254.00 | 253.50 | 254 | 253.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.4 |
| 255 | 255.00 | 254.50 | 255 | 254.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.5 |
| 256 | 256.00 | 255.50 | 256 | 255.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.6 |
| 257 | 257.00 | 256.50 | 257 | 256.75 | -0.25 | -0.2 | 25.7 |
| 258 | 258.00 | 257.50 | 258 | 257.2 | | | |

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

TO CHARGE A SUBSCRIPTION, WE DON'T CHARGE A MONTHLY FEE.

FREE INTERNET ACCESS

YOU DON'T NEED A CREDIT CARD.
YOU JUST PAY A LOCAL CALL TO ACCESS THE INTERNET.

FreeUK.com

Feel free to call now
0900 9000 900
or sign up online at:
www.freeuk.com

FreeUK.com is a service provided by FreeUK.com Ltd. All rights reserved. © 2000 FreeUK.com Ltd. All rights reserved.

LAW

Free speech: important questions of principle

The *Sunday Telegraph* has indicated that it may be returning to court for a ruling on whether Mr Justice Rix was correct to grant his recent injunction to Jack Straw. The Home Secretary obtained the injunction to stop publication of leaked extracts from the report of the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Although the injunction was lifted the next day to allow the media to report what the early editions had already put into the public domain, important points of principle need to be clarified by the courts. Whether or not judges subscribe to the view of Thomas Jefferson that we should prefer "newspapers without a government" to "government without newspapers", they should recognise the basic requirements of free speech in this context.

For many years newspaper and broadcasting organisations have objected to judges granting last-minute injunctions, which require the presses to be stopped or schedules to be altered, with little — if any — opportunity for the defendant to present an opposing argument, or for the judge to consider the difficult issues raised.

The concerns of the media have been heightened recently with the passage through Parliament of the Human Rights Act 1998, which will take effect next year. They expressed fears that the introduction into English law of a right to private life would exacerbate the granting of injunctions in urgent cases late into the evening — and so hinder freedom of expression.

The Home Secretary recognised the force of these concerns and recommended to Parliament a provision, which became Section 12 of the Act, to state principles applicable whenever a court is considering whether to grant a remedy that might affect freedom of expression. Section 12 is not yet in force. But it summarises the content of existing law.

Section 12(2) says that if the respondent is neither present nor represented, the court should not grant a remedy unless satisfied that the applicant has taken "all practicable steps to notify the respondent" or there are compelling reasons why the respondent should not be notified (for example, in a case involving national security). Because of the urgency, the Treasury Solicitor did take all practicable steps to notify *The Sunday Telegraph* but its legal adviser, Julia Braybrook, had only a brief opportunity to make representations to Mr Justice Rix. Where there is such extreme urgency that the notification

cannot achieve its object of ensuring that the respondent has a proper opportunity to answer the claim, the court should be especially cautious about granting an injunction.

Section 12(3) adds that a remedy should not be granted so as to restrain publication before a full trial unless the court is satisfied that the applicant is likely to establish at such a trial that publication should not be allowed. The Home Secretary correctly told the House of Commons during the passage of the Human Rights Act that this embodies the principle stated by the European Court of Human Rights that prior restraints on publication "call for the most careful scrutiny" because "news is a perishable commodity". The less time the judge has to consider the matter, and the more limited the opportunity the respondent has to present the case against the granting of a remedy, the more unlikely it is that the judge can be satisfied as to what the result would be after a full trial, and so the more reluctant the judge should be to grant an emergency injunction.

Section 12(4) tells the court to have particular regard to the right to freedom of expression and, where the case concerns journalistic, literary or artistic material, to the extent to which "the material has, or is about to, become available to the public" and to the extent to which it is "in the public interest for the material to be published".

During the passage of the Human Rights Act, the Home Secretary told the House of Commons that "if a story will shortly be published anyway, for example in another country or on the Internet, that must affect the decision whether it is appropriate to restrain publication in this country". Since *The Sunday Telegraph* had already started to distribute the story in the first edition, and the full report would be published in four days in any event, an injunction was not appropriate, especially in relation to a matter of public interest.

Because last-minute injunctions against the press are, by definition, sought and granted with no proper time for reflection by lawyers and judges, it is of especial importance that the relevant general principles are well understood. In the light of these principles, the injunction against *The Sunday Telegraph* should not have been sought, and it should not have been granted.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



David Pannick QC



Frank Presland, the lawyer who manages Sir Elton John's business affairs: "There are huge swaths of business that are run by lawyers"

I don't have many clients who call me 'sweetie'

Last week Sir Elton John had cause to celebrate. He had won a landmark ruling from the Press Complaints Commission. It had ruled that the pop star's privacy had been invaded when long-lens photographs were taken and published of his guests — Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams and the footballer David Beckham — even though he was not in the pictures.

But for his lawyers at the

City firm Eversheds, it was just another day in the complex dealings arising from handling his affairs.

The millionaire pop icon is clearly no ordinary client: his companies last year turned over more than \$100 million (£61 million), more than the entire turnover of the London office of Eversheds.

What this means for his lawyer, Frank Presland, is a whole new role: he has become Sir Elton's business manager. So consuming is the job that Mr Presland, a commercial litigator and arbitrator by training who has worked for years in the entertainment world, in effect now does it full-time.

The lawyer as business manager is a new phenomenon in Britain, but in America it is commonplace. "There are," Mr Presland says, "huge swaths of business that are run by lawyers. It is not even noteworthy. They go back and forth from law firms to business... the Disney Corporation and Warner Bros are run by lawyers and it will become increasingly common here."

There have been high-profile examples: Robert (now Lord) Alexander, QC, caused a stir when he left the Bar at the height of his career ten years ago to chair NatWest. What is more unusual is to retain a foot in both camps: Mr Presland, who was chairman of Frere Colmeley before it merged last year with Eversheds, is still a senior partner and he does have other clients — for instance, the producers of *Riverdance* in their dispute

Elton John's lawyer is now his business manager. Frances Gibb on the expansion of legal roles

with Michael Flatley. Mr Presland says: "Many lawyers see themselves as not only stuck in private practice but in one area of law. But to start out in law and to think you will do the same thing for 40 years is a depressing prospect. It's good to take time out and reinvent yourself."

Mr Presland was Sir Elton's personal lawyer for 17 years. He was then asked to set up a separate area of business to handle his personal finances. When Sir Elton's business manager left last spring after a dispute, Mr Presland was asked to take over. "I am his business manager but not in the entertainment sense," he explains. "I don't run his diary, promote his records or fix his recording schedules."

Nicholas Valner is the head of litigation and a leading arbitrator at Eversheds. But he has had close dealings over many years with the Beatles, Sting and has acted for Apple. "Apple is a vast organisation with a huge turnover and we have been involved in every aspect of its business as a corporate entity," he says. "I have attended board meetings, almost as in-house counsel."

Last week he was handling a trademark issue with Volkswagen, to do with the registering of "Beetle" and how that would affect the "Beetle"

mark. Mr Valner also handled the case in which Sting's accountant was prosecuted. Mr Valner brought an action against Courts and other financial bodies, recovering almost all the £8 million lost, and now also finds himself instructed by Mr Presland, his fellow partner, on litigation matters for Sir Elton. "Frank is now my client. I report to him at Elton John Management."

Eversheds, he says, was "thrilled" when Mr Presland was appointed to run Sir Elton's affairs. The firm receives a "very substantial" payment for his services and, of course, the spin-off of work that spreads out to various departments.

For Mr Presland, too, much of the work is acting like an in-house company lawyer. One minute he instructs on a privacy case or tax affairs; the next on a trademark problem or investments. "This morning," he adds, "I have spoken with our private capital partner on the establishment of a trust arrangement for Elton John."

The takeover by lawyer-managers is often prompted by a moving-out of the traditional-style managers who handled everything and took a percentage of the earnings —

such as Brian Epstein with the Beatles and Colonel Tom Parker with Elvis Presley. "The affairs of these artists are much more complex, with rights all over the place and tax affairs that run through different countries," Mr Presland says.

Sport is another field witnessing the growth of the lawyer-manager, albeit to a lesser extent. "The window of earnings for a sportsman can be quite narrow," Mr Presland says. "But with an artist, copyright lasts for 70 years after the death of a composer. Elton John has released 34 albums under different labels; he is employed by three different companies for three different kinds of work (records, composing and performing). There is also film work and promotions."

Inevitably, the shift from lawyer to business manager can bring a closer relationship. "We share an interest in football and he often rings me on Saturday afternoon to get the scores," Mr Presland says. Sir Elton, he says, does not like things to be dull. And business is handled differently. "You tend to go to him. And the way he influences the way things are run. He has a phenomenal memory and pays huge attention to detail. He is exceptionally hard-working and talented, and that rubs off."

The offices also reflect the client: "We have real art works, not prints... and scented candles, that sort of thing." Mr Presland says. "And I don't have many clients who call me 'sweetie'."

SOLICITORS

THE NATIONAL LEGAL OFFICE & LEGAL SERVICES EXHIBITION

NEC, BIRMINGHAM
16TH - 18TH MARCH 1999

Tues 10 am - 6 pm, Weds 10 am - 6 pm,
Thurs 10 am - 4 pm

Around 150 exhibitors covering all areas of legal products and services will be at the show ready to demonstrate how their products and services can help improve your legal office productivity and efficiency.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE LEGAL PROFESSION'S EVENT OF THE YEAR

FOR FREE TICKETS TELEPHONE 0117 907 1000

website: <http://www.nwe.co.uk>

THE LONDON GAZETTE

9 STONE BUILDINGS

The Chambers of Michael Ashe Q.C.

We are pleased to announce that Isaac Jacob, Edward Denehan, Martin Young, Sheila Foley, Lana Wood, Jonathan Lewis and James Hanham (formerly 3 Paper Buildings) have accepted an invitation to join Chambers on Monday 22nd March 1999.

9 Stone Buildings
Lincoln's Inn
London WC2A 3NN
Telephone: 0171 404 5055
Facsimile: 0171 405 1551
LDE: DX: 314 Chancery Lane
Email: 9stoneb@compuserve.com

Senior Clerk: Alan Austin

Members of Chambers:

Michael Ashe QC
David Iwi
Isaac Jacob
Cenydd I Howells
V R Chapman
Christopher I Cant
Edward Denehan
Penelope J Reed
Martin Young
Araba Taylor
Lynne M Counsell
Robert S Levy
Sheila Foley
Timothy Sisley
John A C Smart
Philip Flower
Helene Pines Richman
Lana Wood
Peter Shaw
Jonathan Lewis
James Hanham
Daniel Bromilow

IF THE Government wants judges to be more in touch with society, perhaps it should think about lowering the collective age of the people it relies on to help with appointments. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has published a list of the names and occupations of the 48-member panel of lay interviewers with a say in elevating judges to circuit judge level. More than a quarter of those on the panel had already retired.

There is a healthy smattering of lawyers in *Management Today's* list of Britain's top 50 "most powerful women". Highest placed, unsurprisingly, is Cherie Booth, QC, who comes third. Among the other lawyers in the list are Wilde Sapte's Judith Mayhew (26), Lesley MacDonald, Lovell White Durrant's managing part-

ner (27), and Rachel Brandenburger (38), a Freshfields corporate partner.

The public will be able to have its say about the way courts will handle civil disputes from next month under the Woolf reforms. Tomorrow the Civil Justice Council, which is watching the reforms, will hold its first open meeting at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham. And who will be in the hot seat? Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and architect of the reforms, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg.

Has Lord Justice Waller one of the worst jobs in the judiciary? He has just been made chairman of the Judicial Studies Board, the body charged with training judges. Top of the agenda is the biggest-ever training programme to bring

judges up to speed with the Human Rights Act 1998 in time for implementation in 2000. The Law Commission, meanwhile, wants to get ahead of the game. It is to look at whether the rules and practices governing bail applications should be amended when the Act comes into force.

The Law Society's attempts to get in grips with the profession's indemnity insurance crisis descended into near-farce last week. On Tuesday the society council rejected demands for law firms to be allowed to buy insurance on the open market when they voted to stick with the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund. But the controversial decision immediately came under question when a special general meeting was called by solicitors opposed to the fund. As a result, Michael Mathews, the society's President, has called a ballot and the result will be announced on May 12. lawpage@the-times.co.uk

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

Stewart & Francis

DEAR VALUED CLIENT,
OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT
THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED
SINCE YOUR LAST WILL
OR CODICIL.

WE RECOMMEND
FREQUENT REVISIONS
IN ORDER TO MINIMISE
ESTATE TAXES.

PLEASE CALL MY
SECRETARY AT YOUR
CONVENIENCE TO SET
UP AN APPOINTMENT.

P.S.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
LOVE, YOUR SON,
RICHARD. XXXXXX



الحكمان العدل



CORPORATE - SENIOR ASSISTANTS
3-5 YEARS' PQE

Speechly Bircham is focused on success. In each of our seven core practice areas we have an acknowledged and often leading reputation for quality. Acting for top clients - many of them international - we consistently punch above our weight.

Lawyers in our experienced corporate finance team work on a broad range of transactions, particularly mergers and acquisitions and related equity and debt financing. Our work is characterised by an innovative attitude to problem solving and the effective management of our clients' legal affairs. It is a formula that has attracted a strong list of corporate and institutional clients including a number of leading international companies.

We are now looking for commercially-minded lawyers from a City background. You will have experience in M&A and venture capital transactions as well as public company work. Bright, ambitious and keen to move the practice forward, you must also work well as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

If you want to find out more about Speechly Bircham, visit us on our website: www.speechlybircham.co.uk

SPEECHLY BIRCHAM

FOCUSSED ON SUCCESS



A sense of direction. Ours and yours. That's what makes us different at Herbert Smith. We're proud of our success and know where we're going. Never complacent. Always forward thinking. Always careful to ensure that every individual is

integrated

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT LAWYERS

Our professional support lawyers are integrated within the firm. Many represent us on working parties and professional committees. Two of our support lawyers have been made partners - an indication of the value we place in our PSLs.

ACCOUNTANCY - We have created an innovative PSL role. We advise the top accountancy practices on a broad spectrum of legal issues. You will work alongside some of the most highly regarded names in the field offering support and some fee earning work if desired. You need not have specific experience in this field and you may be either a solicitor or barrister.

PENSIONS - Our pensions practice advises on a broad range of pensions matters as well as charities, trusts and employee benefits. Being flexible, we'll tailor the position to suit you and you can focus on pensions or incorporate any of these other related areas.

CORPORATE FINANCE - You will join our flourishing corporate practice where the work is high profile, often international and always challenging. You will have the opportunity to develop your expertise in corporate finance or to enjoy a broader corporate role.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION - Our litigation practice is distinguished for its reputation in handling all types of high profile work and we are known as the "university for litigation". Your support will ensure that we maintain our pre-eminent position.

You will need a minimum of 2 years' ppe but you could be much more experienced. You will also have a strong academic record. We actively encourage all our support lawyers to play a key role in developing our greatest resource of all. Our people. To find out more about us, visit our web-site at www.herbertsmith.com.

HERBERT SMITH

Law Firm of the Year
Chambers 1998/9

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Adrian Fox or Gwenda Shapoe on 0171 405 6062 (0171 794 8188 evenings/weekends), or write to them at QD Legal.

Email: adrianfox@qdgroup.co.uk

QD Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH
Tel: 0171 405 6062
Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394

London
Birmingham
Leeds
Manchester
Hong Kong
Paris

New York
Sydney
Melbourne
The Netherlands
Toronto
Vancouver



Where legals dare.

Lawyers who leave private practice go through a period of soul-searching. It is not an easy step. Gone is the security of feeling you know exactly what you are aiming for with the one allotted goal at the end of it - partnership. But lawyers who really want to join the action and thrive on commercial cut and thrust don't tend to look back once they've gone in-house. If you are that sort of person, you may well consider taking it a step further - immersing yourself completely in business and joining QD In-house Legal as a recruitment consultant.

In-House Legal Recruitment Consultants

EXCELLENT + BENEFITS

We have a dedicated in-house team and all of us are working on a range of projects from major blue-chip multinationals to smaller entrepreneurial, and sometimes even start up companies.

We offer a genuine alternative - the opportunity to become an integral part of our dedicated in-house legal team where you can enjoy far more responsibility and autonomy than you could ever hope for as a young lawyer.

As a result of sustained and continued growth, evidenced by our need to recruit again within a fairly rapid time frame we are seeking a consultant to join our existing team with between 0-4 years' ppe preferably gained in-house or in private practice or with previous experience in another recruitment consultancy. Alternatively, you might be performing a marketing or HR function in a company, keen to expand your horizons and broaden your repertoire as an external recruiter.

Interested in different business sectors with well developed social skills and a strong commercial awareness, you will be attracted by the challenge of an exciting division within a young, highly profitable and dynamic HR related group with products ranging from recruitment through management consultancy and counselling to advertising.

An excellent remuneration package, not just a salary and other benefits but with the potential for equity ownership together with long-term career advancement, make this a rare opportunity for someone who is seeking something different both outside the law and inside recruitment.

Please contact Kate Sutcliffe, Stephen Levey or Anne Marlett at QD In-house Legal.

Email: kate.sutcliffe@qdgroup.co.uk

QD In-house Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London
WC1R 4JH

Tel: 0171 405 6062

Even/Weekends: 0958 569 203
0171 798 8736

Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394

Web: www.qdgroup.com

London
Birmingham
Leeds
Manchester
Hong Kong
Paris

New York
Sydney
Melbourne
The Netherlands
Toronto
Vancouver



COMPETITION LAWYERS

The Office of Fair Trading exists to encourage and sustain competition in business at all levels. It is an independent, non-political department, established in 1973, and headed by the Director General of Fair Trading. It plays a key role in the enforcement of competition law.

The Competition Act 1998 introduces an entirely new regime that will give the Director General enhanced powers to investigate and take action against agreements that restrict competition and conduct which is an abuse of a dominant position. Implementation of the new law offers an exciting challenge for which the OFT needs energetic and enthusiastic lawyers. OFT lawyers also advise the Director General and his officers on a range of matters including UK and EC mergers. This is a superb opportunity to undertake a stimulating and intellectually demanding role in a high profile office as it makes the transition to the new regime.

The successful applicants must be solicitors admitted or barristers called (and with pupillage completed) in England

and Wales, and who have experience of competition law. They will also possess intellectual ability, good analytical skills, a broad legal knowledge, the ability to work under pressure, and be able to establish and maintain good working relationships.

The posts are based in Central London and have a salary range of £24,405 - £45,709. There is the possibility of promotion to more senior posts. Where an applicant is of exceptional calibre and experience, an appointment to a pay range with a higher maximum may be considered. If you would like an informal discussion about the posts, please call Simon Brindley on 0171 211 8895 or Pat Edwards on 0171 211 8892.

To obtain an application form, please contact: Laura Graham, Office of Fair Trading, Room C522, Chancery House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SR. Tel: 0171 211 8752. Fax: 0171 211 8553. Email: laura.graham@oft.gov.uk

Closing date for applications is 31 March 1999.



OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING



What is the big idea?

Intellectual Property Officer

One of the many things that makes us unique among the world's top consulting firms is that we actually make products. PA Consulting is creating the new thinking and new technology that is driving the growth and boosting the performance of forward-thinking companies. So here at our Global Technology Centre in Melbourne, there are always lots of exciting new ideas in the making.

But spotting a good idea is only the first stage in the development of tomorrow's winning technologies. If our clients are to enjoy the full market potential of any innovation, watertight legal protection is essential. And that could very well be where you come in. Join our fast-growing Commercial Group, and you will work alongside consultants, scientists and engineers to identify, evaluate and protect a broad portfolio of valuable yet often intangible assets.

You will be entering a fast-moving, results-driven environment, in which deadlines are tight and the analytical challenges are significant. We are looking for a graduate with at least two years' IP-focused experience in a technology-based environment.

Cambridge

You will know how to prepare accurate documentation, be familiar with relevant legislation and patent formalities. A strong team player with assured IT skills, you will also be an exceptional communicator, equally conversant in the languages of scientists, engineers and lawyers.

PA Consulting Group offers a challenging, exhilarating and highly rewarding arena in which to develop your career. One of the many big ideas to come out of PA is that every member of the firm should be a share-holder - and that the size of bonuses should be linked directly to individual performance. The package includes comprehensive benefits, including an opportunity to accumulate shares in the business, so you will have a real stake in the success you create.

Get the idea? Then send a full cv, quoting Ref: IPR/TL/03, to Michelle Keeley, PA Consulting Group, Cambridge Technology Centre, Melbourne, Herts SG8 6DP. E-mail: michelle.keeley@pa-consulting.com

Make the change.

www.pa-consulting.com

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED

TO: BOX No.....

c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS P.O.BOX 3553
VIRGINIA STREET
LONDON E1 9GA

PERSONAL INJURY/KTA

Due to further recent expansion Legal Exec. or Solicitor (up to 3 yrs PQE) required to undertake Def. P.I. Litigation. Excellent terms. C/P's to Mrs. Brown Hollington Lonsdale Chambers 27 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1RG

TRY A CAREER THAT ISN'T LEGAL

Progressive company looking to expand, following highly successful first seven years of trading, seeks graduates, aged 24-30, or those of sound professional background to be trained to the highest standard with aim of full profit participation within 2-3 years. Call: TONY MORAN 0171 578 7444

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899

Which team
completed
£3.7 billions'
worth of
projects last year?

...Dibb Lupton Alsop's Commercial & Projects team

Surprised? You shouldn't be. Dibb Lupton Alsop has a team that has won widespread recognition for some of the largest and most innovative deals done in recent times. Like the first MOD equipment PFI (M511), the Foreign Office Berlin Embassy project and over 60 other major projects the team is currently working on.

We are interested in talking to transitional lawyers from a variety of disciplines (no strait jackets here!) who want to play a pivotal role in building on the team's success across our nationwide network of offices.

We offer an accelerated career path and financial rewards hard to beat for both assistant and associate level recruits where:

- Commercial and Projects work is core to the business and represents a significant part of the firm's fee income.
- You will find a supportive culture that understands the needs and concerns of its people and demonstrably invests in their futures with established mentoring, appraisal and secondment regimes.
- You will be able to work on projects ranging from the public sector, banks and corporate as well as on domestic and international joint ventures, M&A, IP and other commercial agreements - we encourage variety and fun.

DLA is a forward thinking and innovative law firm with a vision to become a fully integrated European practice

Interested candidates are invited to contact Michael Silver Recruitment Manager at Dibb Lupton Alsop, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AE. Alternatively, you may prefer in the first instance to contact the Team Head, Mark Swindell, for a preliminary chat on:

0345 26 27 28

Birmingham • Bradford • Leeds • Liverpool • London • Manchester • Sheffield • Brussels • Hong Kong

**DIBB
LUPTON
ALSOP**

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

M4 Corridor
£ Excellent + Benefits



BIRMINGHAM • EDINBURGH • LEEDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER

At the cutting edge of technological innovation, Madge Networks has become a leading worldwide provider of data, video and voice networking solutions. Striving for excellence, the company has pioneered advances in Token Ring, ISDN, ATM and video networking. With numerous awards for its innovative products, the company now employs over 600 people based in 25 countries worldwide.

To help assist rapid expansion into new markets and new products the company is now looking for a Senior Commercial Lawyer eager to work in a fast-paced environment addressing commercial legal affairs throughout the world. You will be responsible for managing the legal aspects of high value commercial agreements and multi-national contracts, co-ordinating external legal advice and advising senior management on company policy. You will be expected to interact at the highest level negotiating with major customers, which may include leading telecommunications and IT companies.

To be considered you will be UK qualified, with between 4 to 8 years' post qualification experience, preferably with an in-house background although very commercially orientated lawyers with relevant private practice

experience will be considered. Your background will be in company/commercial law and ideally you will have a thorough understanding of IT and IP issues. Ambition and energy are prerequisites to joining a team of motivated professionals with a shared vision of developing pioneering technology.

In return there will be significant potential for personal growth and development within this dynamic business. The salary package will reflect the calibre of the successful candidate.

In the first instance, please contact, in complete confidence, Zofia Robinski or Guy Hayward on 0171 405 0151. Alternatively, please send your full CV, including the details of your current remuneration, to HW in-House Legal, High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL. Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: zofia.robinski@hwgroup.com Internet: www.hwgroup.com

**HW IN-HOUSE
LEGAL**



IN-HOUSE OPPORTUNITIES

► Patent Agent - To £100,000

We currently have 2 exciting opportunities for Chartered Patent Agents and/or European Patent Attorneys to work in leading edge high technology and biotechnology companies. For further information, please contact Laurence Simons personally or Shona McDougall on 01223 516001. Ref: 4112 or 4111

► Property Counsel - 1st in-house appointment

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a dynamic young lawyer to join this premier UK property company. The role will involve setting up the legal function and the successful candidate will be a commercially minded solicitor with a strong personality and at least 3 years' experience, ideally gained in the property department of one of the top UK law firms. Whilst the work is mainly property related, you will also be expected to provide general commercial legal advice. For further information, please contact Rachael North. Ref: 3382

► 9 European & Global Roles

We currently have 2 clients who require 9 lawyers in total to join their HQ legal departments. Both companies are market leaders in their fields and require UK, other European or US qualified lawyers with between 1 and 6 years' general commercial and corporate experience, gained from well known law firms or multinationals. Foreign language skills are not a prerequisite. Please contact Naveen Tuli. Ref: 3659 & 3973

► General Counsel (German Qualified)

This is one of the best in-house roles on offer in Germany. Our client is a major, household name US multinational. They require a senior German lawyer (12+ years' experience) to head up a large legal department with responsibility for Central & Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS. You must have in-house experience together with people management skills. Contact Naveen Tuli. Ref: 3289

London & Cambridge

West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

London

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a dynamic young lawyer to join this premier UK property company. The role will involve setting up the legal function and the successful candidate will be a commercially minded solicitor with a strong personality and at least 3 years' experience, ideally gained in the property department of one of the top UK law firms. Whilst the work is mainly property related, you will also be expected to provide general commercial legal advice. For further information, please contact Rachael North. Ref: 3382

Zurich & Brussels

We currently have 2 clients who require 9 lawyers in total to join their HQ legal departments. Both companies are market leaders in their fields and require UK, other European or US qualified lawyers with between 1 and 6 years' general commercial and corporate experience, gained from well known law firms or multinationals. Foreign language skills are not a prerequisite. Please contact Naveen Tuli. Ref: 3659 & 3973

Southern Germany

This is one of the best in-house roles on offer in Germany. Our client is a major, household name US multinational. They require a senior German lawyer (12+ years' experience) to head up a large legal department with responsibility for Central & Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS. You must have in-house experience together with people management skills. Contact Naveen Tuli. Ref: 3289

► Sole Lawyer - Contracts

After the enormously successful launch of a new internet service, this high profile company wishes to recruit a sole lawyer to deal with all the contractual issues. Applicants must have strong interpersonal skills and wish to work in a fast and demanding environment. For further information, please contact Shona McDougall on 01223 516001; Fax: 01223 516002. Ref: 4116

► Senior IT Counsel

Are you a European qualified lawyer with 5 or more years' experience including information technology and software licensing and development? If so, and you are keen to join a worldwide provider of information technology services and business solutions to a broad range of clients, then please contact Rachael North. Ref: 4115

► Regulatory Advisor - Telecoms

This leading European Telecoms company currently has an exciting opportunity for a 5-4 year qualified lawyer with relevant regulatory experience. The ideal candidate must be comfortable operating at a senior level with the credibility and authority to advise and influence other senior managers. For further information, please contact Alexes Diggins or Rachael North. Ref: 4106

► Commercial Lawyer

If you have an eye for detail and are focused and determined, you may be interested in this well-known international hotel group which requires a commercial lawyer to join its team. You do not necessarily need to be from a pure commercial background. The lawyers work to tight deadlines and travel regularly, so you should be used to working under pressure. For further information, please contact Alexes Diggins or Rachael North. Ref: 3943

LAURENCE SIMONS
International Legal Recruitment
Professional, Proactive and Personal

Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA. Tel +44 (0)171 831 3270, Fax +44 (0)171 831 4429

Evenings (after 7pm)/Weekends Tel: +44 (0)181 203 9080

E-mail: laurence@laurencsimons.demon.co.uk

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

CORPORATE

To £80,000
Prestigious medium sized City firm with an outstanding reputation in the Corporate Finance area seeking 3-5 years' PQE lawyer. The firm attracts the highest quality of work and therefore demands the best people. Excellent academic record, City pedigree is important. Ref: T47888

US STRUCTURED FINANCE

To £300,000
Exciting opportunity for a structured finance/securitisation lawyer preferably at partner level to join this extremely profitable, established and well run London office of a leading US firm. A following would be ideal, although not essential, particularly at the junior partner level. Client development capability and an entrepreneurial spirit essential. Ref: T26781

PENSIONS

To £50,000
Healthy mix of corporate transactional pensions work and pure pensions advice with one of the leading lights in this specialist practice area in a top rated team with first class training. This is a unique opportunity for a blue chip firm of this size. Ref: T22236

SHIPPING LITIGATION

To £49,000
Sick of being a small cog in a large wheel? If you wish to move to a smaller firm but not compromise on the quality of your work, then this niche shipping litigation practice could be the answer to your prayers. A dry shipper with 2-4 years experience will find this firm a breath of fresh air. Ref: T61765

EMPLOYMENT

To £90,000
This highly dynamic US firm is now seeking to recruit top calibre employment assistants at all levels from leading City firms. A broad range of the highest quality employment work in the City acting for very blue chip clients. An exceptional opportunity. Ref: T61822

PROPERTY FINANCE US FIRM

To £90,000
Leading US practice with a successful London office seeking to hire talented property finance lawyers with ideally 2-5 years' PQE. You may have a banking or property background. What is of utmost importance is excellent transactional skills coupled with entrepreneurial flair. Ref: T61634

EC PSL

To £80,000
This top ten City firm continues to make great strides in Europe and is now seeking to bolster its team of know-how lawyers by appointing an EC specialist. You will have at least 2 years' experience with a major City practice and be interested in moving into a fast-developing area. Ref: T46891

INSURANCE LITIGATION

To £40,000
Exciting opportunities to join one of the City's most respected firms. With ideally 0-2 years' PQE in insurance litigation this is a rare opportunity to work at the high end of the market undertaking some of the most interesting and stimulating litigation in the City. Excellent opportunities to develop all round commercial litigation skills. Ref: T61742

PROPERTY

To £70,000
Top ten City practice still very much committed to its high profile property department. Seeking high calibre property lawyers from newly qualified to 4 years' PQE. Experience of transactional work, landlord and tenant work and portfolio management useful. Ref: T6594

INSOLVENCY

To £100,000
This medium sized City practice is seeking to bolster its insolvency expertise. It now wishes to appoint a non-contentious insolvency specialist with at least four years' exposure to play a key role. Good contacts with insolvency practitioners particularly advantageous. Ref: T61653

IT - US FIRM

To £70,000
This leading US practice which has made a real splash with its high profile recruitment campaign now seeks IT assistants at the 1-5 year qualified level. Tremendous client base, tremendous quality of work and top salary. Ref: T61606

CORPORATE FINANCE

To £40,000
This leading City firm has vacancies for recently qualified corporate finance lawyers. It offers excellent opportunities for you to participate in high profile work. Given the nature of the firm, international experience will be a bonus and an interest in Asia will not go amiss. Ref: T29729

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahamson, Stephen Hoar or Nicola Station (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 405 0082 (0171 405 4063 or 0171 405 5727) even/weekends, or write to them at QD Legal, email: graham@qdgroup.co.uk, hosi@qdgroup.co.uk

QD Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London
WC1R 4JH

Tel: 0171 405 0082
Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394
Web: www.qdgroup.com

London Birmingham Bristol Leeds Manchester
France Germany The Netherlands USA Canada Asia Australia South Africa

1750 Leathers - 1 CPO paid
23 March 1999
72K - Reaching the Millennium Day
Charles Douglas, Carol Linton
630 pm, The Law Society, 113
Chancery Lane, London
For more information, contact Rita
Quinn 0171 321 5794



March On

PARTNERS

Property Lit To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Planning

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Pensions

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

PFI

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Funds

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Co/Co

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

ASSISTANTS

Corp Finance To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Insolvency

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Technology

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Shipping

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Private Client

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Property

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

IN-HOUSE

Insurance To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Banking

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Property

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Commercial

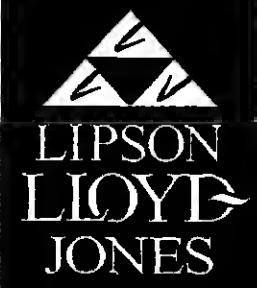
To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Financial

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.

Employment

To £250K
West End Expanding firm wishing to market its property litigation skills, seeks senior lawyer at or near partner level who will have the energy and drive to take on an exciting new challenge.



**LIPSON LLOYD-JONES
LEGAL RECRUITMENT**

For more information about these positions, or a discussion about the legal market, call one of our consultants

Andrew Nelson
Sian Bishop
Lucy Boyd
Marian Lloyd-Jones
Rosie Webb

127 Cheapside
London EC2V 6BT

Tel: 0171 600 1690

Fax: 0171 600 1972

info@lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk

www.lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk

London - overseas - industry

Loyal self-interest

Junior partners: senior partners. The changing relationship between them can test human character. Their interests diverge, straining the bonds of fellowship, eroding loyalty to the limit. In large law firms, these stresses are manageable. In the smaller firms they can lead to schism and breakup. Here's an example we see frequently. The ageing senior partner has brought on his younger partner, teaching them his skills, passing his clients on to them, and in the end relying on them to support him as his own practice declines. The younger partners then begin to resent him and consider leaving or bolting the practice onto a larger firm, leaving him to fend for himself. This is not done easily, of course. It is painful. Emotions of deceit and betrayal may cause the junior partners to delay the final rupture for years. But eventually self-interest prevails, and they go. If the coup de grace is well managed, the senior partner becomes a consultant with the new firm. Otherwise he simply retires on whatever he gets as a pension.

Michael Chambers

Our legal directory is available at £45 from Biblos:

Tel: 01403 710971

Industry

Legal adviser

Solicitor with up to 3 years' PQE to join legal department of services company of international group. IP experience useful and fluency in another European language, preferably Italian, ideal.

Sole lawyer

Solicitor/barrister 4 yrs' PQE with first rate P/TI skills to join fast growing software company and establish in-house legal function. Real commercial awareness essential.

Property company

Major UK property company seeks hands-on property lawyer to handle mixed caseload of L&T, acquisitions and disposals and general property matters within existing team.

Partnership Positions

We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for 25 years and we are regularly placing several partners each month.

Corporate finance partner

One of the best US firms in London (profits per partner c. \$900k) seeks partner or team for outstanding US investment banking and corporate clients.

Commercial property

Medium-sized firm seeks property solicitor with 2-3 years' PQE for excellent quality work with emphasis on landlord and tenant work and very little corporate support.

Solicitor advocate

Leading City firm seeks solicitor or barrister with at least 3 yrs' qualification/call for advocacy group handling domestic and international litigation. Higher rights of audience required.

Transaction lawyer

Solicitor with approx 10 years' experience of leading and financial services to join high calibre legal department of fast growing services company.

Leisure

Solicitor 1-2 years' company/commercial experience to act in a legal and administrative capacity in support of senior members of established legal department.

Legal adviser

Solicitor with 4-5 years' general commercial experience to join established legal department of major manufacturing company. Some international exposure. Dynamic personality and sense of humour essential.

Corporate

Top City practice with gaps in the pyramid at 5-7 year qualified level offers clear route to partnership. Real corporate powerhouse going from strength to strength.

Corporate tax - professional support

City Large international firm seeks UK qualified tax lawyer for 12 month project to collect, collate and interpret complex tax material for internal database. Includes some drafting.

Shipping

Highly regarded shipping dept. seeks 1-3 yrs' qual sol for dry R caseload with an emphasis on international arbitration. Overseas offices provide regular flow of high quality work.

Senior commercial property

Rare opp to join firm with strong property team handling complex, high value work. Property development, retail exp essential. Partip opp in sought after location.

Saville House, 23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL
Tel: 0171 606 8844 Fax: 0171 600 1793
e-mail: info@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

CHAMBERS
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

حکومت العراق

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899

Legal Adviser, Cambridge

This is an opportunity to join a fully integrated, global legal team, working for a successful, emerging pharmaceutical company whose activities span the UK, Europe and the USA.

Since its full listing on the London Stock Exchange in 1994, Chiroscience has acquired two additional companies, invested further in research and development and its operations continue to expand. Its first major product should be launched internationally this year. The company now seeks an additional lawyer to join its Cambridge operation. In a senior and challenging role you will work closely with the Director of Legal Affairs providing cross border legal services for the Chiroscience group of companies.

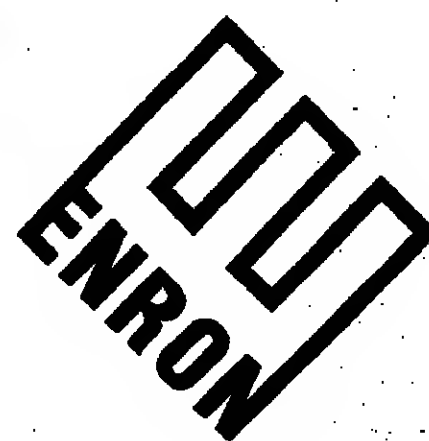
Working in multi-disciplinary teams with business development and senior research professionals you will provide an essential service advising on contractual issues, joint ventures and collaboration arrangements with other companies and corporate transactions.

To perform this role you need 4-7 years experience of contract based commercial law and some exposure, ideally, to working in-house. A knowledge of transactional intellectual property would be helpful but is not essential. Most important will be your flexibility to see business solutions combined with your positive and enthusiastic approach to doing business and making things happen in an emerging and expanding international company.

You will report to the Director of Legal Affairs who splits her time between the USA and the UK and will work closely with other directors. There may be some international travel and the compensation and benefits package is attractive. Chiroscience offers the opportunity to join a relatively small but successful and cutting edge company that is growing quickly and investing heavily in its people.

To submit an application or for further information on this position please contact Nick Creed or Sally Horrox at ZMB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London, EC2M 2PL. Telephone 0171 523 3822. Confidential fax 0171 523 3823. Evenings/weekends 0171 924 4872. This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB Industry and all third party and direct applications will be forwarded to them. Closing date for applications is 31st March 1999.

CHIROSCIENCE



Entrepreneurial Lawyers

London & Teesside

Outstanding Remuneration

Voted the most innovative company in the US for the past four years (Fortune Magazine), Enron Corp is one of the largest integrated natural gas and electricity companies in the world with assets of approximately \$23 billion. Our success to date has stemmed from proven market knowledge and a strong physical asset position, together with a highly skilled work force and a flair for innovation.

We are pursuing a progressive and highly successful business strategy across the UK and Europe and as a result positions have now arisen for two lawyers, one to be based in our London headquarters and the other with Enron Teesside Operations, our utilities and services business based at the Wilton International Manufacturing Site in Teesside.

Transactional Lawyer - London

You will play a broadly based role, advising on all aspects of our business particularly focusing on project development, mergers & acquisitions and energy industry financing transactions.

You will have gained between 4 and 8 years' transactional experience in a major City law firm and will have a corporate/commercial or finance background (no energy experience is necessary).

Corporate/Commercial Lawyer - Teesside

Ideally with 4-6 years' ppe and the ability to operate and negotiate at senior board level, you will have broad ranging corporate and commercial contracts experience gained in a major law firm or in-house organisation of similar standing. Project finance experience would be useful but not essential. Again previous energy experience is not a prerequisite.

For both the above roles you will need to be a hardened negotiator, proactive, imaginative and capable of working closely with senior management in one of the most entrepreneurial companies in our sector.

In return you will be offered excellent career opportunities and an outstanding salary, bonus and benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, in relation to the London position please contact Jane Mearns or Greg Alabarnas on 0171-405-6082 (0181 442 0841 evenings/weekends) and in relation to the Teesside position Graham Mackay on 0113 281 8025 (0113 281 8076 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, mearnsj@qdggroup.co.uk, mackayg@qdggroup.co.uk

QD In-House Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH
Tel: 0171 405 6082
Confidential fax 0171 831 6394

3rd Floor, Royal Exchange House
Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 5NS
Tel: 0113 242 9700
Confidential fax 0113 242 3033
Web: www.qdggroup.com

This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by QD In-House Legal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them for consideration.



QD

PERSONAL INJURY

Vacancies at all levels for Executives or Solicitors.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Hertfordshire | Plaintiff | To £32,000 |
| Sussex | Plaintiff | To £25,000 |
| Bristol | Plaintiff | To £25,000 |
| Hampshire | Plaintiff | To £24,000 |
| London | Plaintiff | To £24,000 |
| Warwick | Plaintiff | To £23,000 |
| Berkshire | Defendant | To £20,000 |

Smith Newman Associates
45-47 Corn Street, Bristol, BS1 1HT
Tel: 0117 934 9393 Fax: 0117 934 9993
e-mail: legaljobs@smithnewman.co.uk

Looking for the best in-house opportunities?

LAURENCE SIMONS
International Legal Recruitment
Professional, Proactive and Personal
Tel +44 (0)171 831 3270
Fax +44 (0)171 831 4429

Assuranceforening SKULD (Gjensidig) was founded in 1897 and has offices in Oslo, Bergen, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Paris and Hong Kong. The organisation's purpose is mutual insurance of liability and loss incurred by the member in direct connection with the operation of their ships. SKULD is, with its 180 staff, one of the world's leading companies within P&I insurance. There are 110 staff at the head office in Oslo.



LAWYER Legal Department - Oslo

The legal department has 10 staff members working in an international environment. The department is responsible for Skuld's claims handling of defence cases/FD&D, and provides advice to other departments and to members as required.

The position will include:

- Appraisal of all types of maritime contracts and cases
- Assistance to members and in-house
- Participation in teams dealing with complex matters
- Management of Legal proceedings (arbitration and court cases)
- Project work
- Active participation in seminars

The right candidate will have:

- Practised as a lawyer with expertise in maritime law
- In-depth knowledge of English law
- Preferably 2-3 years experience within insurance/Defence/P&I
- Excellent communication skills
- Written and spoken language abilities preferably both in Norwegian and English

The right candidate will:

- Show commitment and ability to work as part of a team
- Be thorough and efficient
- Have high standards of quality and be able to work under pressure

We can offer:

An international and challenging position with excellent opportunities for work and personal development, competitive salary and good social benefits.

For more information, contact Frank Riley, telephone: +47 22 00 22 65. Enquiries in complete confidence can also be directed to Hans Kristian Henriksen, Mercuri Urval, telephone: +47 90 75 20 82. If you want more information about Skuld you can also visit our website: <http://www.skuld.com>.

Written application with CV and copies of references and qualifications should be sent to our Personnel Department by 16 March 1999.

Assuranceforening Skuld (Gjensidig) Postboks 1376 Vik, 0114 Oslo, Norway. Telephone: +47 22 00 22 00; fax: +47 22 42 42 22

COMPANY LEGAL ADVISOR

C. £35k plus Company Car and Benefits

Oxford based

We are looking for a generalist to work closely with our Chief Operating Officer and senior management team, providing them with a wide range of legal support and advice. As well as being the legal specialist in the UK, the Legal Advisor will be a key member of the global legal department, liaising with colleagues in Amsterdam and New York.

The role will involve drafting contracts, licensing and other issues relating to our traditional printed publications. First and foremost, however, this is an opportunity to specialise in providing IT-related legal advice, assisting in the development of our role as market leader in electronic publishing for the scientific community.

With around two to four years post qualification experience in either a medium sized law firm or a commercial

organisation, you should have an interest in the publishing business and the Internet, and an awareness of information technology in general. You will need to have a professional and diplomatic approach as well as the confidence to communicate at all levels within the organisation. In addition, you must be organised and systematic and have the ability to manage a number of projects simultaneously.

The salary and benefits package includes a company car, contributory pension scheme, life assurance, 25 days holiday, staff restaurant and fitness centre.

Please send your CV to Mrs Lesley Harpley, HR Director, Elsevier Science Ltd, The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB.



CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 23RD MARCH 1999.

DEPUTY PUBLIC TRUSTEE



Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Public Trustee at the Public Trust Office, which is an executive agency of the Lord Chancellor's Department. The post is based in Central London.

The postholder is appointed by the Lord Chancellor to carry out a wide range of legal work in connection with the administration of private assets and financial affairs entrusted to the care of the Public Trust Office by the courts, or by, or on behalf of, people unable or unwilling to manage these matters themselves.

The successful candidate will be a fully qualified solicitor or barrister with a wide knowledge of and substantial experience in private client and trust work. As he or she will have direct line management responsibility for a small Legal and Property Group and will be a member of the Agency's Management Board, some wider experience of management would be an advantage.



The appointment will be made initially on the basis of a three-year contract, with the option for extension or for permanent appointment. The post attracts a salary in the range £41,550 - £65,270

(depending on experience) with opportunities for performance pay, although more may be available for an exceptionally qualified candidate. A Recruitment and Retention Allowance of £1,776 is also payable. The post is pensionable.

Further details, together with an application form, can be obtained from Heather Atkinson, Senior Staff Personnel, Lord Chancellor's Department, Room 931, Selborne House, 54-60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW (telephone: 0171 210 8667/8).

Applications should be supplemented by a detailed CV which addresses the requirements of the job description. Only those candidates who appear, from the information available, to have the best qualifications, qualities and experience for the post will be invited to interview. Completed applications should be returned no later than 29 March 1999.

The Lord Chancellor's Department is committed to equality of opportunity in employment for all who are eligible, on the basis of ability, qualifications and fitness for work. Applications are invited from all qualified individuals, irrespective of race, gender, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.



Bank for International Settlements

An international organisation based in Basle, Switzerland, promoting central bank cooperation and providing additional facilities for international financial operations, with around 480 staff from some 30 countries, the BIS is seeking for its Legal Service a

Lawyer

Requirements

- law degree from a university of high standing in a civil law country
 - German (mother-tongue standard) and perfect command of English; knowledge of another major world language such as French would be a plus
 - extensive knowledge of banking, commercial and international public and private law
 - three to five years' professional experience, ideally gained with a bank, international organisation or law firm
 - computer literacy
- The successful candidate will join a small group of lawyers advising on legal matters relating to the Bank's activities and is expected to:
- deal with various legal issues of interest to the Bank or to the central banking community
 - safeguard the interests of the BIS in accordance with the applicable law and the Bank's commitments
 - prevent and, if necessary, assist in the handling of litigation
 - participate in groups of experts and maintain contacts with other international institutions

The BIS offers attractive conditions of employment in an international environment. Information on the Bank is available on its website at www.bis.org.

Applications should be sent, together with references, to Human Resources, Bank for International Settlements, 4002 Basle, Switzerland, quoting reference 98485.

Bank für Internationalen Zahlungsausgleich

هكذا من العمل



Who's been speaking to Rumpole? The new rule in theory means that both the client and the lawyer could be required to hand over confidential material

Can you keep a secret?

What you tell your lawyer may no longer be covered by privilege, say Penny Lewis and Michael Bowden

What you tell your lawyer is confidential. Or is it? Communications between lawyer and client in the privacy of the former's office are akin to those of the confessional. They are covered by privilege, one of the legal profession's fundamental articles of faith. But all of this could be about to change. From next month new rules of court come into force that will govern all civil disputes. And they could have far-reaching and unwelcome consequences for everyone who consults a lawyer.

Buried deep in the new rules is the seemingly innocuous Rule 48.7, which concerns the power of the court to make a lawyer who mis-handles a case personally pay the wasted costs. Many people would rightly applaud such a move. But the rule also gives the court the power to direct a lawyer to commit what would normally be a serious

professional offence—to give confidential documents belonging to the client to the other side in a dispute, without the client's consent. Until now, any lawyer who disclosed a "privileged" document to his client's opponent could usually expect trouble from the Law Society. The rule means that both the client and the lawyer could be required to hand over confidential material, whether the client likes it or not. And unless the Lord Chancellor's Department issues guidelines or practice directions as to just how this power is to be used, it could mean that no client can ever be absolutely sure that privileged material will remain secret for ever.

The House of Lords once ruled,

in the case of *R v Derby Magistrates (1995)* in relation to secrets disclosed to a lawyer by his client that "his mouth is shut forever". From next month this will no longer be the case. The new rule appears to upset a law that was established in the 16th century; namely, that communications between a client and his or her lawyer will be as sacrosanct as secrets divulged to a priest in the confessional or between a journalist and his source. Indeed, it seems so radical that some lawyers are wondering whether the authors of the new rules have, in their zeal, forgotten that the Act which gave them power to write the new measures limits their scope to "practice and procedure".

In the *Derby Magistrates* case, the House of Lords declared that the "privilege" rules which ensure that lawyers keep their clients' secrets are "more than a rule of evidence, limited in application to an individual case, but a fundamental condition on which the administration of justice rests". Although the Act authorising the new rules also permits changes to the rules of evidence, the court in *Derby Magistrates* has said that the "privilege" rules are more than mere rules of evidence. One that attacked privilege could therefore be said to go far beyond mere practice and procedure and might also undermine human rights legislation, which is supposed to confer on everyone the

right to a fair trial. If the right to retain control over disclosures to one's own lawyer is perceived as fundamental to the fair administration of justice, then — unless carefully controlled — the new rule could prejudice the right to a fair trial entrenched in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Such radical changes in policy should be properly discussed, should not be introduced through the back door by means of possibly ultra vires secondary legislation and should be considered very carefully. If directions governing the application of the new rule are in the pipeline, then the powers that be are leaving their publication until the last minute — the new rule is due to take effect in a matter of weeks.

● The authors are solicitors with Fishburn Boxer, the City law firm.

Making the right moves on mediation

Alternative dispute resolution needs monitoring, says Edward Fennell

The deal agreed last week between lawyers for the former Oasis drummer Tony MacCarroll and the remaining band members was a classic last-minute settlement "at the doors of the court". The game of mutual bluff was finally over but it had taken the prospect of days in front of the judge, and escalating legal fees, to concentrate efforts. It confirmed to objective observers that there is a better way to resolve disputes.

The signs are that with the imminent arrival of the Civil Procedure Rules (the "Woolf" reforms) mediation is on the verge of a massive boost. During the past 12 months there has been an estimated increase of 100 per cent and that figure is likely to be repeated for the foreseeable future. As a result, people now believe that a turning point has been reached in the alternative dispute resolution marketplace.

There are enough trained, qualified and experienced mediators to take on this workload. There are several competing mediation bodies — including, notably, the Centre for Dispute Resolution, the ADR Group and the Academy of Experts — each with its own training course and qualifications. Among these bodies there is a discreet jockeying for position as an important debate starts about how to ensure a quality service in an burgeoning market.

A distinguished group of established "big" names, the so-called Magnificent Seven in the Panel of Independent Mediators (PIM), have joined together. While some members of PIM are partners in law firms — such

as Andrew Paton of Pinsent Curtis and Philip Howell-Richardson of Morgan Cole — others are independent.

Some people wonder whether there are enough competent mediators available. Successful, widespread mediation is crucial to the Woolf drive for faster, cheaper alternatives to court hearings. If the system is to work, then the public and legal professions at large must have confidence in the services available.

Currently there is no formal requirement for training or qualifications, and if demand exceeds supply, then the danger is that inexperienced or unqualified mediators will jump in to fill the gap. Established mediators recognise that this would be disastrous. The agreement, has to command the full voluntary backing of the participants but a key feature is that mediation is not binding. If badly conducted mediation leads to a succession of non-

agreements, then confidence in the technique will start to fail. There is plenty of goodwill at present. Professor Karl Mackie and his team at the Centre for Dispute Resolution have spent the past few years promoting mediation and providing well-regarded training courses. Acting as a clearing house, CEDR has helped in more than 2,000 mediations, including many that have involved sums of more than £100,000.

In the immediate future the market will decide who gets most of the work. If the Woolf reforms work, then before too long there may be a real clamour for tighter regulation.

The public must have confidence in the system if it is to work

IN-HOUSE • PRIVATE PRACTICE

Nationwide London

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| INTERNET/INTRA-MEDIA c.4yrs+ Herts or London. Fast growing internet service provider seeks sole charge commercial lawyer with IT law media expertise to handle wide web issues. To £50K + pkg. | PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY 1-2yrs Insurance town of popular Herts firm seeks junior solicitor, ideally from a major City law firm, to work closely with a partner, undertaking professional indemnity work. This is a genuine quality of life move to a firm which offers excellent benefits from large City practice. | FILM/TV HQ-2yrs and 3-5yrs This medium-sized City firm has a leading practice in entertainment law, particularly film and TV work and is now looking at two levels. If you have strong commercial experience in this area and are looking for an exciting and lucrative career, this is the move for you. |
| SOUTH COAST £25-45k Leading co. seeks adaptable, business-minded lawyer to handle diverse range of contract, finance, employment and dispute related work. Good environment & package. | PRIVATE CLIENT/TAXATION 3-5yrs One of the most respected Private Client teams in London seeks a tax specialist with strong experience of offshore and onshore work. Excellent career opportunities for an ambitious solicitor to work in a supportive and friendly working environment. | COMMERCIAL LITIGATION 2-4yrs Join the City office of this national firm and handle top quality cases in a market leading firm. The department has a reputation for excellence in a progressive and dynamic City firm. This is an unparalleled opportunity that will guarantee a successful career. Top level salary. |
| INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS 3yrs+ Leading financial services law firm with 3yrs+ projects in IT/telecoms seeks lateral with investment projects in developing economies. French or Spanish skills ideal. | KNOW-HOW Part Time/Home Working These unusual vacancies at City firms for a Counsel, Property, Personal and Corporate lawyer to work part time or possibly from home as professional support lawyers. You should have 4-10yrs experience in the relevant specialisation from a major City firm. | BANKING LITIGATION 2-5yrs Combine excellent quality banking litigation work with a general commercial litigation caseload in a progressive and dynamic City firm. This is an unparalleled opportunity that will guarantee a successful career. Top level salary. |
| HERTS (1yr contract) £40 - £55k Leading financial services law firm with 3yrs+ projects in IT/telecoms seeks lateral with investment projects in developing economies. French or Spanish skills ideal. | BANKING/PROJECT FINANCE 2-5yrs Do you want the quality of work of a top five firm, the culture (but not the hours) of a City firm, and the supportive, friendly atmosphere often found in the City? Our client believes it can offer all of this, together with realistic prospects in its busy Banking team. | INSOLVENCY HQ-3yrs Make your mark in the Corporate Insolvency team of this major City firm, which offers excellent training and top right work for an ambitious junior City-trained lawyer. Strong emphasis on insolvency and non-contentious insolvency work. |
| CONSUMER GOODS CO c.2-3yrs Herts - exciting new role will test expanding consumer goods co for a young lawyer to handle varied commercial, media, IP and EU work. | CONSTRUCTION/PROPERTY 1-3yrs Extremely popular City firm offers wide spectrum of construction work including advice on methods of procurement, contracts, tendering, project finance, planning, environmental issues and facilities management. Top level salary. | FSR/REGULATORY 3-6yrs City office of national firm seeks an Associate lawyer. You will work with experts in all aspects of the FSR, litigation, prosecution and investigations, usually for the Regulator. |
| TRADEMARKS 4yrs+ London - Blue chip co seeks experienced specialist (legally and/or ITM qualified) to advise on both UK and international TM issues. Highly competitive package. | COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 1-3yrs Small, friendly department in progressive London firm seeks a junior property lawyer, keen to have plenty of client contact and play an important role in this close-knit team. Experience in a major London regional firm essential. | |
| TELECOMS/COMMERCIAL 2-4yrs London - Leading telecoms co seeks a pragmatic commercial lawyer to advise on range of complex contracts including interconnect agreements. Plenty of scope to develop. | | |
| CO/COM - Bioscience Co. 0-2yrs Herts - Int'l Bioscience co offers exciting first in-house move for a young lawyer to play a key role in this fast-growing team. Varied and fast-paced work. Great first move. | | |

Please call Jackie O'Connell, Stable Brooks or Caroline Fish (London-Practice), or Steven Hall / Helen McLennan (Herts-Practice) on 0171 430 1711, or write to us at Graham Gill & Young, London WC2B 6BN. Fax: 0171 331 4188. E-mail: ggy@earthlink.net



GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

COVENTRY MAGISTRATES' COURT COMMITTEE

TRANCEE LEGAL ADVISER/LEGAL ADVISER

Salary range £15,000 to £25,000 depending on experience. Do you have the capability to:

- ★ Be a good working relationship with magistrates
- ★ Manage the business of a court in administering local justice
- ★ Be part of a cohesive legal team
- ★ Contribute to the aims and objectives of the Court
- ★ Help manage and support committees
- ★ Participate in the training and development of magistrates and staff

If you are a solicitor or barrister (or have passed professional examinations) who has achieved these competencies, or believe that your support and encouragement could, then there may be a post for you at Coventry Magistrates' Court.

National conditions of Service apply. Assistance with removal expenses may be available.

Further details of the post and the Court, together with an application form, are available by contacting my Deputy, Colin Borton at the address and telephone number below.

Closing date for applications: 31st March 1999. Interviews to be held on 28th April 1999.

J.F. McMahon, Justices' Chief Executive, Coventry Magistrates' Court, Little Park Street, Coventry, CV1 2SQ. Telephone: 01203 630666

ALL BOXNUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No. c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA

RWS

PROJECT SERVICES

As part of the continuing growth of its International dispute resolution practice RWS Project Services Limited is seeking a First Class Lawyer with commercial litigation and arbitration experience to lead and develop its arbitration expertise in the UK and Overseas.

RWS Project Services Limited is an International dispute resolution consultancy, employing over 200 personnel worldwide, with significant expertise and a pre-eminent reputation across a range of practice areas, including Construction, Shipping, Petrochemical, Mechanical & Electrical, Transport, Communications and Specialist Electronics.

Successful candidates will have excellent academic qualifications and litigation experience, preferably gained at a leading City law firm, together with the drive, commitment and commercial acumen to develop a successful business. In return, they will be assured of high quality, challenging work in a friendly, sociable atmosphere, with a premium remuneration package and excellent career prospects.

Please send or Email by 31st March 1999 a detailed current CV, salary details, and a cover letter to: RWS Project Services Ltd., 18-20 Crucifix Lane, London SE1 3JW. Email: confidential@rws.co.uk Website: www.rws.co.uk

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| INVESTMENT BANKING As no. 2 in the capital markets dept. of this US Bank's Investment Banking business, you will be responsible for handling all high yield debt work (JVs and M&A) in the capital markets dept. A package of up to \$400,000 is offered + relocation. Ref: 9839. Contact: Peter Goodwin. | EU/COMPETITION The London based team of specialists currently consists of 5 partners, 10 associates in information officer and paralegal support. With rapid growth of work expected as a result of the new Competition Act, the group seeks two associates with at least a years' exp. Ref: 7882. Contact: Peter Goodwin. | CORPORATE FINANCE/EUS RATES The London office of this US firm offers immediate partnership to a UK corporate lawyer with a minimum 2 years' PQE and quality experience of public company work. No following is required as an existing heavy, international case load of IPO's, M&A's requires immediate attention. Ref: 9042. Contact: Scott Gibson. | CORPORATE DAX (US FIRM) The top US firm offers the opportunity for an ambitious junior associate to work very closely with their US offices on major international tax issues including: corporate reconstruction, structured finance/banking and technology. Practical experience is helpful but potential and an aptitude for tax are more important. Ref: 8887. Contact: Scott Gibson. | COMMERCIAL PROPERTY This c.40 partner firm houses a solid and expanding 7 partner property dept., 5 of whom specialise in all aspects of pure commercial property work. A sixth assistant is needed to handle a varied caseload and will have an unusually high degree of client contact and responsibility. Superiorly located offices. Ref: 9141. Contact: Jane Glasbeek. | JUNIOR IT/COMMERCIAL This very friendly and "family" City practice is able to attract cutting edge high tech work by maintaining its emphasis on employing quality-driven lawyers. An overwhelming amount of new work has necessitated the need for the group (2 partners and 4 associates) to seek a further lawyer. You will handle a mix of e-commerce, IT, copyright, trademark, and distribution issues. Ref: 9488. Contact: Jane Glasbeek. | GUERNSEY: LITIGATION OR CO/COM Two vacancies exist at pre-eminent Guernsey firm seeking a litigator to do a range of high quality, mainly civil work (including matrimonial) and also a company/commercial lawyer, preferably though not essentially with offshore financial experience. Ideal if you want something a little bit different - a beautiful location, a better quality of life, no commuting and low taxation! Ref: 9009. Contact: Pamela Galtier. | EU/COMPETITION The formidable EU/Comp department of this City firm consists of c.15 lawyers and is headed by several leading lights very highly regarded in their field. Opportunities to handle all aspects of EU and UK competition law and you will preferably have undertaken a stage at the Commission. The firm is well known for its mercurial and young culture. 1-5 years exp. Ref: 7143. Contact: Pamela Galtier. | HUGHES-CASTELL International Legal Recruitment Consultants London Office: 87 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1BD. Tel: 0171 242 0303 Fax: 0171 242 7111 Hong Kong Office: 701 and 702 East Town Building, 41 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong. New York • Chicago • Boston • Atlanta • San Francisco • Palo Alto • Sydney • Melbourne • Brisbane • Wellington |
| LITIGATORS The market for litigators has dramatically improved and we have recent and urgent instructions to find litigators in the fields of banking, insurance, shipping and property. Our clients are London City firms and your application will be handled in complete confidence. Ref: 1000. Contact: Mike Harris. | PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY Our client is a leading UK and national firm with a public listed client base. The 3 partner professional indemnity team, located in the litigation department, is best known for its litigation for professional underwriters, particularly in the field of legal professional negligence. There is a definite partner vacancy in the city office. Ref: 8228. Contact: Mike Harris. | GENERAL BANKING The legal department of this European Bank requires a lawyer (2-4 years exp) to deal with loan syndications; corporate, trade, project and structured finance; residential, construction and property investment lending and other banking matters. Ref: 9320. Contact: Tanya Aljwadi. | PRINCIPAL FINANCE The principal finance team of a major international house is seeking a lawyer with 4-6 years experience at a quality firm or investment bank of heavyweight corporate transactions in particular mergers and acquisitions and venture capital work. This is a front office role paying up to £50,000 + Bonus. Ref: 6447. Contact: Tanya Aljwadi. | CORPORATE/FINANCIAL SERVICES Non - Legal Job If you are in the Corporate or Financial Services department of a major law firm and some of the clients you advise are investment trusts which are not moving into Corporate Banking at a leading bank? The role involves extensive liaison with clients and will draw heavily on your knowledge of legal documentation and the Yellow Book. 1-4 years' exp. Ref: 8170. Contact: Paul Rasmussen. | SECURITISATION - IN HOUSE Investment Bank Which ever law firm you work at you will never be as close to the action as in the Securitisation team at a successful and ambitious bank. The 2 strong team at the London office of just such a bank seeks a 1-4 year qualified lawyer and will offer a salary up to £70,000 plus attractive benefits to a charismatic team player with proven securitisation experience. Ref: 8615. Contact: Paul Rasmussen. | IT LAWYER - IN HOUSE London Leading international IT company with particular strengths in outsourcing and systems integration services requires a further lawyer (3-5 years exp) to join their established legal department. The successful applicant will have strong negotiation and drafting skills with a commercial focus. Competitive package. Ref: 8683. Contact: Richard Gawn. | TELECOMS - IN HOUSE London Excellent position with a "blue chip" company offering a range of telecom work of the highest quality. The opportunity will allow you to build on your previous telecoms experience (2-5 years exp) in a supportive and well-resourced environment. Competitive salary and package. Ref: 8967. Contact: Richard Gawn. | |

WOOLF IN ACTION

BY
DAVID BARNARD
AND
33 BEDFORD ROW

All you need to know about the new civil procedure reforms and the future funding of civil litigation in a one day course.

Lectures at two venues from 6 to 27 March

See this week's chapter from our book on the internet at www.templecity.co.uk/woolf

To book phone 0171 242 8476 or 01424 212021

Looking for partnership prospects?

LAURENCE SIMONS
International Legal Recruitment
Professional, Proactive and Personal
Tel +44 (0)171 831 3270
Fax +44 (0)171 831 4429

Venture firms refuse to yield

Small companies must clear big hurdles to satisfy the tough taskmasters of the funds, says Henrietta Lake

Venture capitalists are refusing to revise their targets and are still demanding returns of 30 to 40 per cent despite an environment of low inflation.

Pressure to achieve such high returns means that securing finance has not become any easier. To grab the attention of a venture capitalist requires an experienced management team, a competitive product and a willingness to let go of about 40 per cent of the business.

With other sources of finance, such as banks, wary of the risk in supplying big sums of money to growing firms, and with stock market flotations becoming less attractive, the need for venture capital is even more acute. The Government is keen to recognise venture capital's role in driving productivity by financing companies for growth.

Measures are expected in today's Budget to promote corporate venturing, the process by which big companies take a stake in smaller growing firms.

The venture capital industry has invested £23 billion in more than 16,500 companies since 1983, and the size of the industry grows every year. This month its coffers will be boosted by an extra £100 million flowing into venture capital trusts from investors rushing to use up, for this tax year, the relief that the trusts provide from capital gains and income tax.

David Thorpe, investment director at Friends, Ivory and Sims, said: "There is a lot of money out there, but it does not mean it is all invested." Competition for deals is tough. For every plan that a venture capitalist accepts, at least 50 are rejected.

The first thing to remember is that a venture capitalist is interested only in companies likely to grow — and grow fast. A projected return of 25 per cent within three to five years is usually the least they will settle for, and targets of 35 to 40 per cent are common. Venture capitalists argue that this is justified by the risk that they take in backing growth companies. With almost one in four deals failing, extra pressure is put on remaining companies to make up the shortfall.

However, at a time of low



Muriel Downs, of Production Equipment, and Jeremy Morgan, of Barclays Ventures, her £12 million backer, amid a flight simulator's hydraulic system

interest rates and low inflation some observers consider target returns of 30 to 40 per cent to be unrealistic. Competition among venture capital firms has already trimmed targets.

Duncan Innes, of Marriott Harrison, a corporate/financial law firm, said: "There is a general acceptance that average returns of 30 per cent will be much harder to achieve in this economic climate and that they might have to drop by as

much as 15 per cent, although many will still strive for the same levels as before." Paul Thomas, of Gresham Trust, the investment capital company, said: "We are not going to revise our projected level of returns. It is all about backing the right people, who will survive in better shape than the rest. But we do need to become focused on doing the right deals."

In an attempt to maintain

high returns venture capitalists will increasingly target the safer options of management buyouts and buy-ins, ignoring the riskier start-up and seed growth ventures.

Muriel Downs, managing director of Production Equipment, a hydraulics manufacturer in Slough, negotiated a £12 million deal with Barclays Ventures last year. She said: "They really have to be able to see growth potential. We are aiming for 30 per cent, although in this climate I doubt this much will be achieved."

A business plan should be detailed and well researched. It should include the latest audited accounts, the management team's biographies and as much detail as possible about the firm's track record, how much money you need and how you propose to use it.

Mr Thomas said: "Do not ask your accountant to write

the plan. The investor is interested in you and your colleagues. The proper role of your adviser is to act as Devil's advocate to prepare you to be tested."

Mrs Downs agreed: "Be prepared to answer awkward questions such as 'What happens if it all goes wrong?' and 'Where will the growth come from if this division fails?'"

Andrew Crankshaw, a director of Card Warehouse, a greetings card retailer that secured £8 million of funds from Mur-

ray Johnstone Private Equity last year, said: "Striking a deal is all about chemistry. We see Murray Johnstone every month. It is a partnership."

Do not tell a venture capitalist the terms that you think he should offer you. He is in a competitive field and must match your aspirations with his needs. And don't forget that if you want a venture capitalist to have faith in your business, put your money where your mouth is and make an investment yourself.

Call to delay launch of minimum wage

A three-month delay in enforcing the national minimum wage is being demanded by business lobby groups. Employers' organisations, including the CBI and the Institute of Directors, say that the minimum wage is too complicated for firms to comply with by the time it becomes law on April 1.

The Department of Trade and Industry has published its guidelines for employers only 18 working days before the legislation becomes effective. The Government is to spend £4.8 million in the next three weeks on television advertising informing people of the changes.

Last week the Employment Policy Institute called for help for the 200,000 small businesses that will be most affected by the minimum wage. The DTI says that elements of the proposed legislation have been altered to accommodate the needs of small firms. The DTI's minimum wage national helpline is on 0845 8450360.

British businesses are becoming better payers, according to a new survey by Grant Thornton, the accountant. It says that small and medium-sized firms in the UK have reduced their payment times by one week, from 52 days to 46 days, since the survey began in 1993. This brings the UK into the top ten best payers in the European Union, for which the average payment wait is 55 days. Greece — at 87 days — has replaced Italy — at 81 days — as the country with the worst payment record.

Firms that have transformed themselves through information and communication technology can enter the ISI/Interforum awards. The awards, designed to reward firms that embrace electronic commerce, are open to firms with fewer than 250 staff. Application forms are at www.isi-interforum-awards.com or can be obtained by calling 0345 152000. The closing date is April 16.

Having a code of conduct does not indicate a more ethical approach to business, according to a survey by the Institute of Directors. Its *Ethics in Business* report shows that the adoption of a formal code of conduct on ethics creates problems in itself and is not a decisive factor in a company's ethical outlook. To obtain a copy of the report, telephone 0171-766 8766.

Service companies deserve tax breaks too, says IAIN SLINN, managing director of Incentives and Meetings, a conference organiser based in Glasgow, with seven staff and turnover of £1 million.

"Today the Chancellor is expected to announce tax reliefs for companies to invest in research and development. This is fine for manufacturers and technology companies, but what about firms like mine in the service industry? I find it galling that small firms are not allowed to carry forward to the next year a proportion of their profits tax-free to reinvest in the company — for example, in its marketing budget. If the Government wants to do something constructive to drive productivity, it must look at the needs of all smaller firms, not just some."



Slinn: tax-free plea

Any company wishing to express a view in *Megaphone* should contact *In Business*

WHAT DO VENTURE CAPITALISTS WANT?

- Returns of at least 25 per cent
- Proven track record with previous investments
- Ambitious, focused management teams
- A clear, realistic business plan with a strong competitive edge
- A realistic and detailed business plan
- A clear exit strategy
- Firms with an experienced management team, with complementary areas of expertise such as finance, marketing
- A clear exit strategy
- A realistic and detailed business plan
- A clear exit strategy

Etiquette for e-mailers

BUSINESS BYTES

Anthony Capstick on making the most of Web communication, and avoiding gaffes and legal dangers



Meg Ryan's e-mail style in *You've Got Mail* is not right for business

E-mail exists to make life easier and if used correctly is an invaluable tool for businesses of all sizes. However, many people compose an e-mail as if chatting to a friend on the telephone. An e-mail may be quick to compose and send, but this does not mean that no thought should go into it, particularly in business.

The key to deciding what type of e-mail is appropriate is to think about who you are communicating with. When in doubt, act as if writing a letter to a customer and leave the exclamation marks and funny faces to Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. Such dialogue, used in their new film, *You've Got Mail*, is far from that required when answering inquiries about availability of car parts.

However, there are some simple etiquette rules. Keep e-mails brief and to the point, reply within 24 hours and change the "Re:" or "Subject:" box heading if ongoing correspondence shifts to a new topic. Start e-mails formally "Dear..." as in a letter, particularly on first communication. This will also not cause offence when e-mailing firms abroad.

Last week's government announcement that electronic documents, such as e-mails, will be on the same legal footing as the paper-based word is good news for companies wanting to save time and administrative costs by doing as much business as possible electronically. If orders start arriv-

ing by e-mail, it is wise to review your standard terms and conditions, or at least to make provision for e-mail in any written agreements with customers or suppliers. Some company websites allow e-mails containing orders to be placed only via a screen stating terms and conditions, an important factor if a dispute arises later.

Also, consider the use of company e-mail facilities by staff. A firm has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that e-mailing by staff is legal. E-

mailing pornographic or otherwise illegal material is a firm's standing. It may be worth reminding staff that the server logs and records all e-mails.

Many big companies try to counter this problem by attaching permanent disclaimers such as "Internet communications are not secure and therefore X does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message. Any opinions are solely those of the author."

The creation of a permanent

"signature" is also a good idea. This is a small text file giving information about the sender, such as full name, company name, address and telephone number, extension, fax, e-mail and Web addresses, which is put at the end of the e-mail. Sometimes a "conversation" may be more easily continued by telephone and it is infuriating if no number is given.

Many firms experience e-mail overload. Big attached files slow down a system by taking up a lot of memory. Discourage the sending of unnecessary attachments. This includes all-singing, all-dancing electronic Christmas cards.

Although the facility to attach files is useful, some people may be unable to handle the type of file you send. If in doubt, try to send information in the body of the e-mail. If sending pictures, try to use a format taking the least space or the message will take a long time to send and the receiver may be unable to view the picture. Stick to common standards, such as JPEG or GIF.

A system also becomes clogged if it is not used properly. Make sure staff know that they must empty their "inbox" regularly to prevent it becoming so full that it rejects incoming messages. Print out documents that may be needed later. Help to keep e-mail efficient. Depending on how many e-mails you get, check the inbox at least three times a day or have a message pop up on screen to let you know "you've got mail". You wouldn't want to miss an order.

Anthony B. Capstick, author of *How to Change Your Life with Technology*, is the managing director of Instant Search Business Information.

IN BUSINESS IS EDITED BY HENRIETTA LAKE henrietta.lake@the-times.co.uk

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN THE TIMES

MORE THAN 84,000 BOOKS SO FAR - BRILL

Children receive more books



IT'S GOING GREAT GUNS
We have now dispatched 84,234 books to more than 30,400 schools who have collected more than 15 million tokens.
• The top five books ordered so far are: Mrs Armitage Wheels, Blitz, Bears in the Night, Catherine The Lion and Spacebaby.

A BIG BOOST IN THE CLASSROOM
Whether you have no children or your children are grown up, still collect tokens and give them to a school in your area. They will appreciate your support.

MAKE THEIR BOOKS YOUR BUSINESS
If you have an interesting story to tell about collecting tokens for a local school, ring The Times today on: 0171-635 9018.

SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S TOKEN CHANGING TIMES





John Aloisi, of Coventry City, has been in goalscoring form of late, but his dismissal against Charlton Athletic was not quite what the Fantasy League doctor ordered

Crossing Guppy's path can pay generous dividends

While the spotlight was on the FA Cup sixth round at the weekend, there were significant results in the FA Carling Premiership that affected *The Times* Fantasy League.

Steve Guppy, of Leicester City, dead-ball expert and the most prolific scorer in the top flight according to statistics, won Saturday's game at Selhurst Park with an early strike after a clearance by Neil Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, had found its way straight to him, and his part in Leicester's defence of their lead helped to earn a clean sheet and his team's first league win of the year.

Guppy described the 25-yard shot into the top corner as one of the best goals of his career. "From the moment I hit it, I knew it was going in. It was a great feeling. I've scored four goals this season, and every one has been from outside the box. It would be nice to get a tap-in."

According to Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, Guppy, formerly with Wycombe Wanderers and Port Vale, is in good form. "He's been remarkably consistent and it's great to have a winger who goes back and does his defensive jobs."

That is good news for those who have him in their Fantasy teams; for Fantasy League purposes, he is classed as a full back, so he receives three points from any Leicester clean sheet, but his raids down the flanks mean that he will grab plenty of two-point assists too.

Leicester's 2-1 defeat by Leeds United last Monday left him with a one-point deficit, but Saturday's

exploits gave him a total of five points for the past seven days. It was no surprise to find that Guppy was part of this week's top team, Nina Jack Tom, selected by Michael Earls, of Brackley, Northamptonshire, who receives £500 plus £100 worth of sports equipment. "I'm a Wycombe boy and I've always followed his career," Mr Earls said. "He's a good attacking player."

Mr Earls, managing director of a carpet company, is a season-ticket holder at White Hart Lane, and was pleased to note that David Ginola, of Tottenham Hotspur, contributed two assists to his team total, in last week's win over Southampton. "I picked an attacking midfield," he explained.



As I was saying

The Cup has disrupted another programme of league games. I see. Yes, and it is also affecting this week's midweek games. Manchester United were originally due to play Liverpool tomorrow, but now they're playing away to Chelsea instead, in the Cup replay.

I thought replays were always nine or ten days after the original match? Ordinarily they are, but Manchester United are in Milan playing Inter next week, so they've got special permission to bring the replay forward.

Compared, isn't it? And if fixture congestion wasn't enough, players are having to waste valuable training time writing letters of apology to the Football Association. I presume you mean Messrs Fowler and Le Saux? Of course. And it sets a worrying precedent. Oh, I don't know. At least Le Saux got in a good, clean strike. It wasn't a case of "handbags at ten paces". An unfortunate choice of words in the circumstances. Possibly. But what is your objection to our sporting heroes putting pen to paper? Surely it's better than coming to blows. Yes, but if they start writing letters about everything they've done wrong, where will it all end? "Dear Mr Ellery, I would like to say sorry for questioning your parentage..." Or how about "Dear Mrs Drewery, I apologise for not taking your healing

powers seriously. My dodgy groin has started playing up again and I'd like you to have a look at it? Exactly. But I think that some clubs will have to employ writing coaches along with fitness trainers and psychologists. They might have to go right back to basics in some cases.

Oh, I think that players who can't write at all just get their agents to do it for them. Well, whoever does it, I'd welcome something along the lines of "I sincerely regret my complete loss of form, beginning at the precise second when you teamed me for your fantasy league."

You'll be lucky. But does the Le Saux situation affect you? Neither he nor Fowler is in any of your teams, so even if they both pull down a big suspension, it won't matter. Unless you think that any of your players will lose form because they're worried about being outed as Friends of Dorothy? Friends of Dobbins, more like, in my players' case.



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation (m).

GOALKEEPERS

| Code | Name | Club | Weekly | Total | Valuation |
|------|----------|------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 100 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 101 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 102 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 103 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 104 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 105 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 106 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 107 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 108 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 109 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 110 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 111 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 112 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 113 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 114 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 115 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 116 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 117 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 118 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 119 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 120 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 121 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 122 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 123 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 124 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 125 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 126 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 127 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 128 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 129 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 130 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 131 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 132 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 133 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 134 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 135 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

FULL BACKS

| Code | Name | Club | Weekly | Total | Valuation |
|------|----------|------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 200 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 201 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 202 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 203 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 204 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 205 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 206 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 207 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 208 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 209 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 210 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 211 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 212 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 213 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 214 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 215 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 216 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 217 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 218 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 219 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 220 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 221 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 222 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 223 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 224 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 225 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 226 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 227 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 228 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 229 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 230 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 231 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 232 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 233 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 234 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 235 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 236 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 237 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 238 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 239 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 240 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 241 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 242 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 243 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 244 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 245 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 246 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 247 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 248 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 249 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 250 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 251 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 252 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 253 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 254 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 255 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 256 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 257 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 258 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 259 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 260 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 261 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 262 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 263 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 264 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 265 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 266 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 267 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 268 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 269 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 270 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 271 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 272 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 273 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 274 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 275 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 276 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 277 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 278 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 279 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 280 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 281 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 282 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 283 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 284 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 285 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 286 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 287 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 288 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 289 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 290 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 291 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 292 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 293 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 294 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 295 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 296 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 297 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 298 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 299 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 300 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

CENTRE BACKS

| Code | Name | Club | Weekly | Total | Valuation |
|------|----------|------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 300 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 301 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 302 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 303 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 304 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 305 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 306 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 307 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 308 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 309 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 310 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 311 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 312 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 313 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 314 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 315 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 316 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 317 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 318 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 319 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 320 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 321 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 322 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 323 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 324 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 325 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 326 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 327 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 328 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 329 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 330 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 331 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 332 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 333 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 334 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 335 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 336 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 337 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 338 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 339 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 340 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 341 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 342 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 343 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 344 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 345 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 346 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 347 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 348 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 349 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 350 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 351 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 352 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 353 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 354 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 355 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 356 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 357 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 358 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 359 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 360 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 361 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 362 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 363 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 364 | A. Brown | ARS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

RACING: TRAINER LINES UP LUCRATIVE PAY-DAY IN SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE



Jurassic Classic and Carl Llewellyn part company at the second last fence in the handicap chase at Fontwell Park yesterday

Imperial mint tempts Pipe

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

BEFORE Martin Pipe shuffles into some kind of order the 131 entries he has made for the meeting at Cheltenham next week, there is the minor matter of the Sandown Imperial Cup at Sandown this Saturday — and a possible ante-post gamble.

The two-mile handicap hurdle has proved to be a profitable springboard to Festival glory for the champion trainer over the past decade, and when the entries for the valuable contest were published yesterday it did not require the detective powers of a Sherlock Holmes to work out Pipe's intentions.

Midnight Legend, a Champion Hurdle possible, heads the weights but even if David Nicholson's runner bypasses Esher, the weights will not rise too much as Pipe also has Challenger Du Luc entered in the race.

Best known for his mercurial exploits as a three-mile chaser, the nine-year-old is still rated 145 over the smaller obstacles and his presence at the head of the handicap would ensure a decent racing weight for Pipe's other entries — notably Dr Jazz.

The seven-year-old won over 11 furlongs on the Flat in New Zealand, as well as being successful three times over hurdles. After a six-month break, he made light work of winning his British debut in heavy ground at Folkestone, before recording a better effort at Newbury four weeks ago when runner-up to The Fly.

The Barry Hills-trained hurdling newcomer who was third in the 1997 St Leger. Pipe has landed the Imperial Cup three times in the past decade and on the last two occasions the winners have followed up within days at Cheltenham, with Olympian (1993) taking the Coral Cup, while 12 months ago Blowing

Wind completed a famous double via the County Hurdle. Significantly, Dr Jazz also holds entries at Cheltenham next week in the Clifton Supreme Novices' Hurdle and the Vincent O'Brien County Hurdle, both over two miles. The sponsor of the race is taking no risks, given Pipe's record in the race. Not only

has Sunderlands installed Dr Jazz as 5-1 joint-favourite, but Ballysios, who won on his British debut for Pipe two weeks ago at Ludlow, is 6-1. Sunderlands bets: 5-1 Dr Jazz, In Question, 6-1 Ballysios, 10-1 Sir Talbot, 14-1 Alabang, Davoski, Serenus, 12-1 Regency Lake, Road Racer, 14-1 bar.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

| GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Horse | Trainer | Weight | Price |
| Midnight Legend | Pipe | 145 | 5-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 5-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Blowing Wind | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Challenger Du Luc | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Dr Jazz | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Ballysios | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Sunderlands | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |
| Olympian | Pipe | 145 | 6-1 |

Anfield schooling hones Bradford Jewell

By Stephen Wood

PAUL JEWELL, the manager of Bradford City, admits that he "probably borrows people to death" with recollections of his early playing days at Liverpool. But what he learnt is finally coming good, and if it helps Bradford to an unlikely promotion this season, the people of West Yorkshire will not be able to get enough of Paisley, Delglish, Rush, et al.

Jewell has endured a steep learning curve since taking on the job at Valley Parade at the end of last season and, tonight, the ambition of him and his team faces its toughest single test: a visit from Sunderland, the Nationwide League first division leaders.

It is one of another round of fascinating matches in the first division programme. At least ten clubs have realistic hopes of earning promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. Whatever the outcome, Jewell has experienced an about-turn in fortunes that few predicted. After a summer spent strengthening the squad, Jewell and Bradford garnered five points from seven games. Jewell was under pressure then, as he is

Fantasy League updates 44

now. "You keep your feet on the ground and make sure there is no complacency," he said. "It's something I picked up from my Liverpool days." Dean Windass, the striker, was acquired for £1.2 million from Oxford United last week, and he could make his debut tonight.

Sunderland, who trounced Bradford 4-0 in the corresponding fixture last season, are nine points clear of the chasers and Peter Reid, the manager, admits they are within touching distance of the FA Carling Premiership. Ipswich Town, the team in second place, must not lose to Crystal Palace if they wish to retain it by tonight.

Birmingham City travel to Tranmere Rovers knowing that three points and a defeat for Bradford will increase the pressure on the top four. Bolton Wanderers have looked anything but promotion hopefuls in their last two matches but a win at home to Barnsley appears necessary if they are to go forward and claim the second automatic promotion place.

Swift end for Farry at Hampden

By Phil Gordon

JIM FARRY'S nine-year reign as the figurehead of Scottish football came to an end yesterday with a cruel twist of irony at Hampden Park.

The Scottish Football Association's (SFA) chief executive was dismissed from his job at the famous old ground whose rebirth he had overseen, after being found guilty of negligence in the Jorge Cadete transfer affair. His errors cost the SFA more than £130,000, plus legal costs, after they had to settle a compensation claim with Celtic. Celtic had waged a three-year battle to prove that Farry had delayed Cadete's move from Sporting Lisbon, which they claimed prevented them from using the Portugal forward in key league and cup games in the run-in to 1995-96 season.

Farry was not allowed to attend the SFA full council meeting at Hampden which decided his fate. Only the 49 members filed into the stadium which Farry had striven to revamp from a crumbling wreck into a modern £60 million arena. Indeed, Farry, 44, would have been expected to present the Scottish Cup there in just 11 weeks, when the cup final returns to Hampden after three years.

However, a previous cup final appearance perhaps indicated how the general football public would have reacted to Farry's exit yesterday. He was jeered by the crowd at the Kilmarnock-Falkirk final after declaring that neither side would be allowed to celebrate in front of their fans. Tabloid newspapers dubbed him the "most hated man in Scottish football" and, while he had a dry wit, there was little doubt



Farry, left, was dismissed for negligence in the transfer of Cadete, right, but his dictatorial methods may have contributed more to his going

that his pompous language and killjoy attitude combined to ensure he was not a man of the people.

He achieved greater contempt outside football in September 1997 when he refused to change the timing of Scotland's World Cup qualifying tie at home to Belarus, which clashed with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, although the game was subsequently postponed for 24 hours. In fairness, Farry was a prisoner of world football

bureaucracy at that occasion. Farry, though, did not court friends, particularly with either of the powerful Old Firm clubs. His decision to

move to Hampden as Scotland's national stadium upset both Celtic and Rangers, who had invested millions of pounds in rebuilding Celtic Park and Ibrox.

However, Farry's downfall was to continue the SFA's long history of acting in a dictatorial manner, and when he crossed swords with Fergus

McCann once too often the Celtic chairman fixed Farry in his sights and used the Cadete "negligence" as ammunition.

It took only an hour yesterday for the full committee to endorse a decision made by the executive committee last Friday that Farry's contract be terminated. Farry, who claims his faxes to the SFA in the last week seeking a chance to explain were ignored, said he had fresh evidence to present. Celtic, for one, would be greatly interested in why such evidence did not surface over the past three years.

Tony Higgins, the secretary of the players' union, said yesterday: "Anyone who knows Jim Farry knows that rules are adhered to strictly. So it is surprising that rules have been his downfall."

While Jack McGinn, the SFA president, will take temporary charge, the task of finding a successor is unlikely to be easy. Campbell Ogilvie, Rangers' secretary-director, a skilled administrator who influenced the creation of the

Champions' League, is the favoured choice.

However, David Murray, the Rangers chairman, said: "While I can recognise why many other bodies may wish to employ him [Ogilvie], Rangers would not even consider letting him go."

Other contenders could be Roger Mitchell, the chief executive of the Scottish Premier League, and Peter Donald, who succeeded Farry at the Scottish League in 1990.



Wembley future more rosy

By John Goodbody

ANOTHER hurdle was cleared yesterday for the rebuilding of Wembley Stadium, the key element in England's bid for the 2006 World Cup and 2003 athletics world championships.

The chairman and executive directors of Wembley plc decided to press ahead with the shareholders' vote at an extraordinary general meeting to sell the national stadium, despite a last-minute conditional cash offer from SEF, an American sports promotion company.

SEF wanted to delay the meeting by 30 days to consider making a formal proposal to acquire Wembley plc for £218 million while it vetted the company's books.

However, the board is

worried that the £106-million offer for the stadium alone from the English National Stadium Development Company, a joint venture between the English Sports Council and the Football Association, will lapse on March 15.

Last month Alec McGivern, the director of the 2006 World Cup campaign, had said he did not want any further delay because it might damage England's hopes of staging the tournament.

The FA has to meet a deadline of July this year to provide written details of the bid to FIFA, the world governing body for football, and that must include complete details of the new national stadium,

which would hold many of the matches in 2006, including the final. A decision on the location of the 2003 world athletics championships will be made in November.

The chairman and executive directors of Wembley plc said after a board meeting yesterday that it continued to consider that it is in "the best interests" of the company to proceed with the sale of the stadium.

Meanwhile, Irvin Khoza, the chairman of the South African bid committee, said yesterday that he believes that Germany is favourite to be hosts for the tournament unless South Africa reduces its number of candidates from five to one. A decision will be made in March 2000.

Wenger looking upwards

By Russell Kempson

AS THE FA Carling Premiership title race gathers momentum, the mind games have started. On Sunday, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, and Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, suggested that the balance had shifted in Arsenal's favour. Yesterday, Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said that he would rather be in United's position, leading the way.

It means little in the long run — only points mean prizes — but the psychological warfare usually adds a touch of spice to the jousting. "I think United are in the best position," Wenger said, ahead of Arsenal's match against Sheffield Wednesday at Highbury this evening. "We can exchange places if they want. I would take it. We have to win our games and see what happens."

Ferguson and Vialli glanced enviously in the direction of Arsenal, the champions, after United and Chelsea had drawn 0-0 in their FA Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford, requiring a second meeting at Stamford Bridge tomorrow.

United still hold the upper hand in the Premiership, four points in front of Chelsea and seven clear of Arsenal, who both have a game in hand. If Arsenal overcome Wednesday — one of only three sides to beat them in the league this season — they will leapfrog Chelsea on goal difference.

That 1-0 defeat at Hillsborough in September also featured the dismissals of Martin Keown, the Arsenal defender, and Paolo Di Canio, then a Wednesday striker, and Di Canio's subsequent push on Paul Alcock, the referee.

Patrick Vieira, the Arsenal midfielder player, was later fined for his involvement in an incident in the players' tunnel.

After 27 fixtures last season, Arsenal trailed United by nine points but had three games in hand. They then won nine successive matches to clinch the championship. "Our position is more difficult than last year," Wenger said. "We have the advantage of knowing we can do it but United and Chelsea have so much experience. We shall see."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tchmil in pole position

■ **CYCLING:** Andrei Tchmil, the Belgian sprint specialist, won the second stage of the Paris-Nice race yesterday and took the overall leader's white jersey from Chris Boardman, of Great Britain. The 36-year-old Ukrainian-born nationalised Belgian outstripped a breakaway group at the end of the 184.7km stage from Nangis. Frank Vandenbroucke, the race favourite who won the race last year, suffered a puncture and lost almost two minutes.

■ **BOXING:** Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) world heavyweight champion, will defend his title, probably in June, against Vitali Klitschko, the European champion from Ukraine. Klaus-Peter Kohl, his trainer, said yesterday. The WBO imposed the bout on Hide after several weeks of negotiations between Kohl and Frank Warren, Hide's agent. The bout will be held in either Cologne or Hamburg.

■ **EQUINE:** John Whitaker's former top horse, Gammon, on which he won the Hickstead Jumping Derby last August, has been put down after a short illness. The Oldenburg gelding, aged 22, who was owned by Whitaker's father-in-law Malcolm Barr, was moved to Liverpool Veterinary Hospital three weeks ago following a tear in the horse's rectum — a rare condition.

■ **SQUASH:** Scott Handley, the England No 19 and world No 103, has taken his first title on the PSA World Tour, beating Nick Matthew 15-11, 15-5, 15-8 in the all-English final of the Swiss Open championship in Geneva.

GOLF: NEW MAN CARRIES LUCRATIVE BAG AFTER COWAN FLUFFS HIS LINES IN MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Woods names his replacement caddie

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MIAMI

TIGER WOODS ended two weeks of speculation yesterday when he named the man who will take over from Mike "Fluff" Cowan, his caddie for the past 24 years. The man who will pick up probably the most lucrative caddying job in golf is Steve Williams, who has worked for Greg Norman and more recently Ray Floyd.

Woods' announcement put an end to the speculation that has been rife since Bryon Bell, a 23-year-old schoolfriend of Woods, carried Woods's bag during a strokeplay event in San Diego last month. It was the first time since Woods turned professional in August 1996 that he had not used Cowan. Two weeks later at the Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship at Carlsbad, California, Bell, a medical student, was again carrying the

bag. At that time Woods parried questions about Parry's absence by saying he was pleased to be able to provide Bell with the money needed to get through medical school.

"Fluff and I have discussed this over the past few weeks and we both feel it is in our best interests to part ways," Woods said. "I appreciate the support Fluff has provided and recognise the contribution Fluff has made to my success as a professional but it is time to move on. I feel confident we will remain friends."

In the 24 years Cowan caddied for Woods the prodigy won seven PGA Tour events, including the 1997 Masters, and two events in Thailand. Williams was recommended to Butch Harman, Woods's

coach, by Floyd and Woods spoke first to Floyd and then to Williams. "I insisted this be handled the proper way," Woods said. "I did not want it



Woods: not pleased

to seem as though we were going behind anyone's back."

The reason for the split of one of the best known partnerships in golf was felt to be the increasingly high profile that Cowan had been able to adopt. Cowan had not been on the top of his form. Woods alleged, and furthermore had become something of a cult figure, making commercials for a hotel chain, a television station and the World Golf Village.

Perhaps the final straw came when in a recent issue of *Golf Digest*, Cowan revealed his salary — a weekly retainer of \$1,000 and between \$8 and 10 per cent of Woods's winnings. This revelation did not sit well with Woods, who had fired his attorney, and his agent since he has been a professional.

By naming Williams, Woods has silenced the rumours, most of which centred on British caddies. For two weeks Dave Renwick, a 45-year-old Scot, appeared to be the chosen one to replace Cowan. Renwick has caddied for three major championship winners in the past five years — José María Olazábal at the 1994 Masters and Steve Elkington and Vijay Singh in the 1995 and 1998 US PGA Championship respectively.

The longer the rumour-mongers worked, the more likely it seemed that Woods would make an unexpected choice. Woods does not like to be pressured, and the more Renwick and other British caddies were mentioned, the less likely it was that one of them would be the chosen one. Woods, as usual, had the last word.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 95 Miami 72. New York 87 New Jersey 80. Philadelphia 105 Washington 108 (OT). Toronto 105 Boston 82. Utah 98 Los Angeles Lakers 87. Denver 95 San Antonio 105. Portland 111 Houston 71. Sacramento 94 Dallas 88. Seattle 77 Minnesota 88.

SUMMER LEAGUE: Sunday

Birmingham Bulls 65 London Towers 76.

CRICKET

Asian Test championship

Pakistan v India

LAHORE (final day of five): Pakistan drew with Sri Lanka.

PAKISTAN: First Innings 336 (Wasim Akram 123, Younis Khan 83, Inzamam-ul-Haq 64, Mohi Khan 57, G P Vithal 100, Saqlain 103, Saqlain 121 not out, Shahid Afridi 84).

SRI LANKA: First Innings 328 (R P Arnold 123, R S Kaluwitharana 100, Western Almon 4 for 30, Seelan Muthus 4 for 82).

Second Innings

R P Arnold not out... 58

A Guruswami 50 v Shahid Nazir... 58

O P M D Jayawardene v Mohi v Western... 58

M S Atapattu not out... 18

Scores 2-1, 10-9... 765

CRICKET

PAKISTAN: First Innings 336 (Wasim Akram 123, Younis Khan 83, Inzamam-ul-Haq 64, Mohi Khan 57, G P Vithal 100, Saqlain 103, Saqlain 121 not out, Shahid Afridi 84).

SRI LANKA: First Innings 328 (R P Arnold 123, R S Kaluwitharana 100, Western Almon 4 for 30, Seelan Muthus 4 for 82).

Second Innings

R P Arnold not out... 58

A Guruswami 50 v Shahid Nazir... 58

O P M D Jayawardene v Mohi v Western... 58

M S Atapattu not out... 18

Scores 2-1, 10-9... 765

Tour match

President's XI v England A

CAPE TOWN (final day of five): England A beat President's XI by 48 runs.

ENGLAND A: First Innings 330 (D L Moody 135, A Flintoff 100, Second Innings 330 (Flintoff 100, M B Loyd 60).

PRESIDENT'S XI: First Innings 189 (C C Bracken 61, D N Cooley 82).

Second Innings

M L Bryson v Swann v Harrison... 8

H H Dippenaar v Swann... 14

M L Bryson v Swann... 14

F C Bracken v Moody v Swann... 58

D N Cooley v Swann v Harrison... 21

J M Kemp not out... 21

S A Swann v Swann v Harrison... 20

S A Swann v Swann v Harrison... 20

G J Smith v Swann... 15

Totals 189, 189... 15

Umpires: P O Bester and R Brooks.

SUPERSTAR SERIES: East London

First: Western Province 302 (E Simon 75, A Dando 143, T Henderson 4-22 and 3-26, P O Bester 88 not out, V C Davies 5-49; Border 191 (5) 60 and 187, Western Province best bowler by 183 runs.

CYCLING

PARIS-ROUGE RACE: Second stage

21-27-40. Stage 1: 21-27-40. Stage 2: 21-27-40. Stage 3: 21-27-40. Stage 4: 21-27-40. Stage 5: 21-27-40. Stage 6: 21-27-40. Stage 7: 21-27-40. Stage 8: 21-27-40. Stage 9: 21-27-40. Stage 10: 21-27-40. Stage 11: 21-27-40. Stage 12: 21-27-40. Stage 13: 21-27-40. Stage 14: 21-27-40. Stage 15: 21-27-40. Stage 16: 21-27-40. Stage 17: 21-27-40. Stage 18: 21-27-40. Stage 19: 21-27-40. Stage 20: 21-27-40. Stage 21: 21-27-40. Stage 22: 21-27-40. Stage 23: 21-27-40. Stage 24: 21-27-40. Stage 25: 21-27-40. Stage 26: 21-27-40. Stage 27: 21-27-40. Stage 28: 21-27-40. Stage 29: 21-27-40. Stage 30: 21-27-40. Stage 31: 21-27-40. Stage 32: 21-27-40. Stage 33: 21-27-40. Stage 34: 21-27-40. Stage 35: 21-27-40. Stage 36: 21-27-40. Stage 37: 21-27-40. Stage 38: 21-27-40. Stage 39: 21-27-40. Stage 40: 21-27-40. Stage 41: 21-27-40. Stage 42: 21-27-40. Stage 43: 21-27-40. Stage 44: 21-27-40. Stage 45: 21-27-40. Stage 46: 21-27-40. Stage 47: 21-27-40. Stage 48: 21-27-40. Stage 49: 21-27-40. Stage 50: 21-27-40. Stage 51: 21-27-40. Stage 52: 21-27-40. Stage 53: 21-27-40. Stage 54: 21-27-40. Stage 55: 21-27-40. Stage 56: 21-27-40. Stage 57: 21-27-40. Stage 58: 21-27-40. Stage 59: 21-27-40. Stage 60: 21-27-40. Stage 61: 21-27-40. Stage 62: 21-27-40. Stage 63: 21-27-40. Stage 64: 21-27-40. Stage 65: 21-27-40. Stage 66: 21-27-40. Stage 67: 21-27-40. Stage 68: 21-27-40. Stage 69: 21-27-40. Stage 70: 21-27-40. Stage 71: 21-27-40. Stage 72: 21-27-40. Stage 73: 21-27-40. Stage 74: 21-27-40. Stage 75: 21-27-40. Stage 76: 21-27-40. Stage 77: 21-27-40. Stage 78: 21-27-40. Stage 79: 21-27-40. Stage 80: 21-27-40. Stage 81: 21-27-40. Stage 82: 21-27-40. Stage 83: 21-27-40. Stage 84: 21-27-40. Stage 85: 21-27-40. Stage 86: 21-27-40. Stage 87: 21-27-40. Stage 88: 21-27-40. Stage 89: 21-27-40. Stage 90: 21-27-40. Stage 91: 21-27-40. Stage 92: 21-27-40. Stage 93: 21-27-40. Stage 94: 21-27-40. Stage 95: 21-27-40. Stage 96: 21-27-40. Stage 97: 21-27-40. Stage 98: 21-27-40. Stage 99: 21-27-40. Stage 100: 21-27-40. Stage 101: 21-27-40. Stage 102: 21-27-40. Stage 103: 21-27-40. Stage 104: 21-27-40. Stage 105: 21-27-40. Stage 106: 21-27-40. Stage 107: 21-27-40. Stage 108: 21-27-40. Stage 109: 21-27-40. Stage 110: 21-27-40. Stage 111: 21-27-40. Stage 112: 21-27-40. Stage 113: 21-27-40. Stage 114: 21-27-40. Stage 115: 21-27-40. Stage 116: 21-27-40. Stage 117: 21-27-40. Stage 118: 21-27-40. Stage 119: 21-27-40. Stage 120: 21-27-40. Stage 121: 21-27-40. Stage 122: 21-27-40. Stage 123: 21-27-40. Stage 124: 21-27-40. Stage 125: 21-27-40. Stage 126: 21-27-40. Stage 127: 21-27-40. Stage 128: 21-27-40. Stage 129: 21-27-40. Stage 130: 21-27-40. Stage 131: 21-27-40. Stage 132: 21-27-40. Stage 133: 21-27-40. Stage 134: 21-27-40. Stage 135: 21-27-40. Stage 136: 21-27-40. Stage 137: 21-27-40. Stage 138: 21-27-40. Stage 139: 21-27-40. Stage 140: 21-27-40. Stage 141: 21-27-40. Stage 142: 21-27-40. Stage 143: 21-27-40. Stage 144: 21-27-40. Stage 145: 21-27-40. Stage 146: 21-27-40. Stage 147: 21-27-40. Stage 148: 21-27-40. Stage 149: 21-27-40. Stage 150: 21-27-40. Stage 151: 21-27-40. Stage 152: 21-27-40. Stage 153: 21-27-40. Stage 154: 21-27-40. Stage 155: 21-27-40. Stage 156: 21-27-40. Stage 157: 21-27-40. Stage 158: 21-27-40. Stage 159: 21-27-40. Stage 160: 21-27-40. Stage 161: 21-27-40. Stage 162: 21-27-40. Stage 163: 21-27-40. Stage 164: 21-27-40. Stage 165: 21-27-40. Stage 166: 21-27-40. Stage 167: 21-27-40. Stage 168: 21-27-40. Stage 169: 21-27-40. Stage 170: 21-27-40. Stage 171: 21-27-40. Stage 172: 21-27-40. Stage 173: 21-27-40. Stage 174: 21-27-40. Stage 175: 21-27-40. Stage 176: 21-27-40. Stage 177: 21-27-40. Stage 178: 21-27-40. Stage 179: 21-27-40. Stage 180: 21-27-40. Stage 181: 21-27-40. Stage 182: 21-27-40. Stage 183: 21-27-40. Stage 184: 21-27-40. Stage 185: 21-27-40. Stage 186: 21-27-40. Stage 187: 21-27-40. Stage 188: 21-27-40. Stage 189: 21-27-40. Stage 190: 21-27-40. Stage 191: 21-27-40. Stage 192: 21-27-40. Stage 193: 21-27-40. Stage 194: 21-27-40. Stage 195: 21-27-40. Stage 196: 21-27-40. Stage 197: 21-27-40. Stage 198: 21-27-40. Stage 199: 21-27-40. Stage 200: 21-27-40. Stage 201: 21-27-40. Stage 202: 21-27-40. Stage 203: 21-27-40. Stage 204: 21-27-40. Stage 205: 21-27-40. Stage 206: 21-27-40. Stage 207: 21-27-40. Stage 208: 21-27-40. Stage 209: 21-27-40. Stage 210: 21-27-40. Stage 211: 21-27-40. Stage 212: 21-27-40. Stage 213: 21-27-40. Stage 214: 21-27-40. Stage 215: 21-27-40. Stage 216: 21-27-40. Stage 217: 21-27-40. Stage 218: 21-27-40. Stage 219: 21-27-40. Stage 220: 21-27-40. Stage 221: 21-27-40. Stage 222: 21-27-40. Stage 223: 21-27-40. Stage 224: 21-27-40. Stage 225: 21-27-40. Stage 226: 21-27-40. Stage 227: 21-27-40. Stage 228: 21-27-

Drugs busts and the search for Nirvana

If you're new in a town, you're added to Class A drugs and you don't know the address of a supplier, here's a tip: look to the police for guidance in pinpointing the home of a well-stocked dealer.

You won't have to wait long before dozens of police vans screech to a halt at exactly the same prearranged time all across the city as part of a co-ordinated drugs bust. Then you'll see swarms of police officers jumping out and begin battering down the dealers' front doors. Just note the address of one and return the following day.

What makes this method so reliable is that these drugs busts have become nightly events all over Britain. Either that, or it is now law that every police document must include scenes showing the dramatic build-up to a citywide raid on drug dealers. It makes all police look like *The Sweeney*.

So when Inspector Clive Ayling,

the genial linchpin of ITV's new police docudrama *Cop Shop*, sound slightly fed up that "people's perception of the police is based on drama, blue lights, fast driving, frantic activity. What they don't realise is that we're human, we fall in love, we argue, we worry about our wives and children, we're just ordinary people," you felt like yelling "Look behind you!" as if you were in a pantomime. Because just moments later, we could see Ayling's crew knee-deep in — yup — drama, blue lights, fast driving and frantic activity as they raided the homes of suspected dealers in a citywide bust.

And where, for Pete's sake, was the institutionalised racism? This police station in Gosport, Hampshire, doesn't convey a picture of British police officers you'd immediately recognise if you'd just read the Macpherson report into Stephen Lawrence's murder. This is the more tender, Inspector

Shylock version, as in "Hath not a police officer's eye? ... If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh?" It may, of course, be a much more authentic picture. But, frankly, it's hard to know any more.

Clive himself was as decent as they come. We met Clive's wife, his children, saw him returning home for a "hot meal" on his wife's orders before the big drugs raid. We even heard how he unwinds from the stresses of work: unknown to his station colleagues — until now — Ayling has been a Buddhist for several years, and he likes to meditate with monks at a nearby monastery.

Lord knows how his colleagues will react now the cat's out of the bag. Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux has been vilified by other footballers just for going to art galleries. You wonder if maybe Ayling has been keeping quiet about his

monastery trips for a good reason. Then again, maybe some of his colleagues will now also get into the habit.

Then — shock! — no more *News At Ten*. So it fell to John Thaw to shoulder the burden of the evening's schedule as *Kavanagh QC* (ITV). It's possible that ITV schedulers thought that a courtroom drama was the closest they could hope to get to the spirit of

News At Ten, where news was increasingly presented less as information for people who needed to catch up on the day's events than as teasing drama designed to keep viewers guessing as to the outcome. Thus Trevor McDonald would give a taster of upcoming items as in: "Did President Milosevic go to Kosovo, or did he massacre more innocent civilians? Was anybody killed when a psycho opened fire in the middle of Manhattan this morning? Was Posh Spice's baby-born with complications, or not? Did Spurs beat Leicester City, or was it a draw, or did Leicester win? Or was the match postponed due to a waterlogged pitch? Stay tuned for the answers to all these questions."

At 80 minutes, *Kavanagh* feels stretched, like a dinner for four that has been made too round and an extra couple of unexpected guests.

It is always watchable, thanks to Thaw and the regulars at his cham-

bers, and to classy cameos from actors such as Alec McCowen dropping by to play a judge. But the plot itself — which spun around the trial of a pretty, posh Englishwoman who falls for a radical French professor while studying at the Sorbonne, and who says kooky things such as "I denounce this so-called court of law as the instrument of an oppressive state" — seemed a bit tired, especially when it turned out that the woman was the daughter of 1960s radicals (father, Baader-Meinhof; mother, Angry Brigade). I thought the children of 1960s radicals reacted against all that their parents believed in and were the first to put their sons down for Eton.

As soon as *Kavanagh*'s judgment was proved right, much time was spent unwinding the next novelty of its post-*News At Ten* world: *The Grimleys*. Jed Mercurio's sitcom, set in Dudley in

1975, is far more fun than ITV's other new 1970s sitcom, *Days Like These*. But then so, too, is extracting your own teeth with a chisel. Unlike the dismal *Days Like These*, *The Grimleys* has a tang of authenticity that goes beyond huge flares, terrible haircuts and a soundtrack consisting of the Bay City Rollers, Alvin Stardust and Slade. It has a sense of humour, as Brian Conley's PE teacher is horribly plausible, and an opening episode that swiftly and deftly establishes who the characters are, what they are like and what they feel about each other.

But none of this makes the sudden fascination with the 1970s any less perplexing. The clothes, the feather-cuts, and even the Dudley accents make for easy laughs. But surely there's only so much time you can spend winking at the awfulness of 1970s fashions, as it were the scene of a particularly gruesome car crash.

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

mothers trips for a good reason. Then again, maybe some of his colleagues will now also get into the habit.

Then — shock! — no more *News At Ten*. So it fell to John Thaw to shoulder the burden of the evening's schedule as *Kavanagh QC* (ITV). It's possible that ITV schedulers thought that a courtroom drama was the closest they could hope to get to the spirit of

- BBC1**
- 8.00am Business Breakfast (73480)
 - 7.00am Breakfast News (7) (58089)
 - 9.00am News (7) (220315)
 - 9.45am Wipeout (844460)
 - 10.10am The Vanessa Show (7) (7819354)
 - 10.55am News: Weather (7) (3262441)
 - 11.00am Change That (3268111)
 - 11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (3259977)
 - 11.55am News: Weather (7) (7137915)
 - 12.00pm Call My Bluff (27248)
 - 12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (7) (4703373)
 - 12.55am The Weather Show (7) (3847373)
 - 1.00pm One O'Clock News (7) (58986)
 - 1.30pm Regional News: Weather (5776248)
 - 1.40pm Neighbours: Mike's mother hides her opinions or Libby (7) (3816606)
 - 2.05pm Inside Ed goes undercover to foil a kidnapping (7) (5020151)
 - 2.55pm Through the Keyhole (7) (2869606)
 - 3.25pm Children's Play: Playdays (573248)
 - 3.45pm Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (5228189)
 - 3.55pm Hubbub (9441731)
 - 4.10pm Children's Go to the Movies (5803002)
 - 4.35pm The Really Wild Show (3240151)
 - 5.00pm Newsround (4912977)
 - 5.10pm Grange Hill (9809064)
 - 5.33pm Rewind (7) (505070)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (7) (450977)
 - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News: Weather (7) (583)
 - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (335)
 - 7.00pm Holiday Includes a city break in Cairo and a trip to the Spanish coastal resort of Sitges (7) (8070)
 - 7.30pm EastEnders: Peggy gets the results of her biopsy (7) (647)
 - 8.00pm Holly: City Jammer hovers between life and death (7) (5193)
 - 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (7) (3499)
 - 9.30pm Budget Statement: Gordon Brown's financial strategy (7) (454460)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu 7.05am Teleubbies 7.30am Snorks 7.50am Blue Peter 8.20am Top Mania 8.40am Polka Dot Shorts 9.05am Pingu 9.00am Gargamel 9.05am Hello aus Berlin 9.10am Working It Out 9.25am Teleubbies 10.30am Watch 10.45am Space Ark 11.05am Space Ark 11.15am Megamaths 11.25am Words and Pictures 11.50am D-Mag 12.10pm English Express 12.30pm Working Lunch 1.00pm Oakle Oaks
 - 1.10pm War Walks: The military historian Richard Holmes describes the 1914 Battle of Mons (7) (4190484)
 - 1.40pm Hart-Davis on History (3583719)
 - 2.10pm Today's the Day (7) (56697248)
 - 2.40pm News: Weather (7) (3441538)
 - 2.45pm Top Gear: Take Two (7) (4346286)
 - 3.00pm Westminster Special: The Budget Live coverage from Westminster (7) (514335)
 - 6.00pm The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air: sitcom starring Will Smith (7) (228006)
 - 6.25pm Heartbreak High: Drama decides that Sarah must pay her own way (7) (510268)

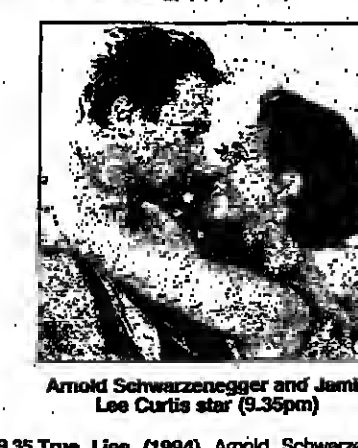
- HTV**
- 5.30am ITV Morning News (49170)
 - 6.00am GMTV (584370)
 - 9.25am Triela (7) (811602)
 - 10.30am This Morning (7) (4473896)
 - 12.15pm HTV News (7) (2426338)
 - 12.30pm ITV Lunchtime News (7) (478441)
 - 12.55pm Shortland Street: Rachel plans Charlotte's wedding (7) (512533)
 - 1.30pm Home and Away: Is Olivia's life in danger? (7) (35245118)
 - 1.55pm The Jerry Springer Show: Outrageous American talk show (7) (2636182)
 - 2.40pm Wheel of Fortune (7) (7375870)
 - 3.10pm ITV News Headlines (7) (4960335)
 - 3.15pm HTV News (7) (4960606)
 - 3.20pm The Budget: What It Means to You: Simple breakdown of how ordinary householders will be affected by the Chancellor's new strategy (7) (4422335)
 - 5.00pm Home and Away (7) (5102)
 - 5.30pm WEST: Can You Keep a Secret? New series in which local youngsters spring pleasant surprises on their parents and grandparents (1/7) (7) (538)
 - 5.30pm WALE: Night Owls: New series. Nocturnal lifestyles (1/6) (7) (538)
 - 5.58pm HTV Crime Stories (250183)
 - 5.59pm HTV Weather (250183)
 - 6.00pm HTV News (7) (51)
 - 6.30pm HTV Evening News: Weather (7) (731)
 - 7.00pm Emmerdale: Zak jeopardises Belle's chastity (7) (2538)
 - 7.30pm WEST: West Eye: New in light of the Bristol heart surgery scandal, James Gamet asks how patients can find out if a surgeon is any good (915)
 - 7.30pm WALE: High Performance: New series focusing on the arts scene (1/6) (915)
 - 8.00pm Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? Big-prize game show (7) (5557)
 - 9.00pm Peak Practice: The plight of an ailing boy leaves Andrew facing an agonising choice between duty and personal conviction (7) (3731)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30pm Central News: Weather (7) (464606)
 - 12.55pm Home and Away (7) (4705460)
 - 1.25pm The Jerry Springer Show (7) (437854)
 - 1.50pm Heart of the Country (4/18) (7) (56617002)
 - 1.55pm-2.00pm The 10.10pm Shortland Street (538)
 - 2.00pm-2.05pm Central News: At Six (515)
 - 2.05pm-2.10pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.10pm-2.15pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.15pm-2.20pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.20pm-2.25pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.25pm-2.30pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.30pm-2.35pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.35pm-2.40pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.40pm-2.45pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.45pm-2.50pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.50pm-2.55pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 2.55pm-3.00pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.00pm-3.05pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.05pm-3.10pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.10pm-3.15pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.15pm-3.20pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.20pm-3.25pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.25pm-3.30pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.30pm-3.35pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.35pm-3.40pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.40pm-3.45pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.45pm-3.50pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.50pm-3.55pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 3.55pm-4.00pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.00pm-4.05pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.05pm-4.10pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.10pm-4.15pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.15pm-4.20pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.20pm-4.25pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.25pm-4.30pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.30pm-4.35pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.35pm-4.40pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.40pm-4.45pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.45pm-4.50pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.50pm-4.55pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 4.55pm-5.00pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.00pm-5.05pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.05pm-5.10pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.10pm-5.15pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.15pm-5.20pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.20pm-5.25pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.25pm-5.30pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.30pm-5.35pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.35pm-5.40pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.40pm-5.45pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.45pm-5.50pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.50pm-5.55pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 5.55pm-6.00pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.00pm-6.05pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.05pm-6.10pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.10pm-6.15pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.15pm-6.20pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.20pm-6.25pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.25pm-6.30pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.30pm-6.35pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.35pm-6.40pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.40pm-6.45pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.45pm-6.50pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.50pm-6.55pm Home and Away (7) (78147)
 - 6.55pm-7.00pm Home and Away (7) (78147)

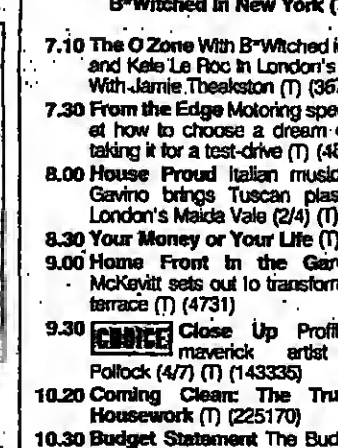
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27pm Westcountry News: Weather (7) (4226538)
 - 12.27pm-12.30pm Small Talk, Big Talk (7472625)
 - 12.30pm-12.35pm The Jerry Springer Show (7) (4705460)
 - 12.35pm-12.40pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 12.40pm-12.45pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 12.45pm-12.50pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 12.50pm-12.55pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 12.55pm-1.00pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.00pm-1.05pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.05pm-1.10pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.10pm-1.15pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.15pm-1.20pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.20pm-1.25pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.25pm-1.30pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.30pm-1.35pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.35pm-1.40pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.40pm-1.45pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.45pm-1.50pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.50pm-1.55pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 1.55pm-2.00pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.00pm-2.05pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.05pm-2.10pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.10pm-2.15pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.15pm-2.20pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.20pm-2.25pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.25pm-2.30pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.30pm-2.35pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.35pm-2.40pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.40pm-2.45pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.45pm-2.50pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.50pm-2.55pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 2.55pm-3.00pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.00pm-3.05pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.05pm-3.10pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.10pm-3.15pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.15pm-3.20pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.20pm-3.25pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.25pm-3.30pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.30pm-3.35pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.35pm-3.40pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.40pm-3.45pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.45pm-3.50pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.50pm-3.55pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 3.55pm-4.00pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.00pm-4.05pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.05pm-4.10pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.10pm-4.15pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.15pm-4.20pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.20pm-4.25pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.25pm-4.30pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.30pm-4.35pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.35pm-4.40pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.40pm-4.45pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.45pm-4.50pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.50pm-4.55pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 4.55pm-5.00pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.00pm-5.05pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.05pm-5.10pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.10pm-5.15pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.15pm-5.20pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.20pm-5.25pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.25pm-5.30pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.30pm-5.35pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.35pm-5.40pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.40pm-5.45pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.45pm-5.50pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.50pm-5.55pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 5.55pm-6.00pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.00pm-6.05pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.05pm-6.10pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.10pm-6.15pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.15pm-6.20pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.20pm-6.25pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.25pm-6.30pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.30pm-6.35pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.35pm-6.40pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.40pm-6.45pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.45pm-6.50pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.50pm-6.55pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)
 - 6.55pm-7.00pm Home and Away (7) (56617002)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am News and Sport Current events (900278)
 - 7.00am WorldWide Part 13. Experiences of university education (7) (8158731)
 - 7.30am Milkshake! (2880557)
 - 7.55am Wipeout House (7) 5 News Update (468229)
 - 8.00am Newsweek (7) (2882809)
 - 8.30am Dappledawn Farm (7) 5 News Update (287480)
 - 9.00am Instant Gardens (5/14) (7) (4163697)
 - 9.25am Russell Grant's Postcards (7) (4441828)
 - 9.30am The Oprah Winfrey Show (5433147)
 - 10.20am Sunset Beach: Francesca's curiosity gets the better of her (7) (382170)
 - 11.10am Leesa (7) (6862539)
 - 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (7) (2885906)
 - 12.30am Family Affairs: Pete threatens Claire (7) 5 News Update (1283118)
 - 1.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful: Jack sets his bodyguards on fire (7) (8157002)
 - 1.30pm The Roseanne Show: Entertainment and chat; 5 News Update (1282489)
 - 2.00pm 100 Per Cent: Computer-generated quiz (248519)
 - 2.30pm Good Afternoon (747606)
 - 3.30am A Fight for Jenny (TVM 1986) A divorced mother marries a black man, but is challenged for custody of her daughter by her bigoted ex-husband. Drama, starring Philip Michael Thomas. Directed by Robert Greenwald (7) (2998163)
 - 5.20pm Sunset Beach: Show earlier (7) 5 News Update (721256)
 - 6.00pm 100 Per Cent: Computer-generated quiz (248519)
 - 8.30am Family Affairs: Clive goes on a blind date (7) (249151)
 - 7.00pm 5 News: Weather Round-up of the day's stories (7) (912606)
 - 7.30pm Natural Passions: Documentary about the Caribbean reef squid (7) 5 News Update (2485335)
 - 8.00pm Crime Report: John Taylor studies the baffling case of a woman and her elderly mother who were stabbed to death at their home in the isolated Norfolk village of Upwell (3/6) (9121354)
 - 8.30pm [CHOICE] Parking Rage: What's the story? Vanessa Collingridge explores the issues of parking; 5 News Update (9140489)
 - 9.00pm The Running Man (1987) Convict Arnold Schwarzenegger takes part in a brutal TV game show in which he's hunted through Los Angeles by trained killers. Futuristic action adventure based on Stephen King's novel, with Yaphet Kotto, Maria Conchita Alonso, Richard Dawson and Jim Brown. Directed by Paul Michael Glaser (7) 5 News Update (8123373)
 - 10.50pm Two Gals: A blind piano teacher from an attempted rape, but fails to understand her reluctance to report the incident (525621)
 - 11.50pm The Jack Docherty Show: Chat and music (8946373)
 - 12.30am Live and Dangerous: Sports magazine (38041836)
 - 3.45am Animal Football Show (7688045)
 - 4.40pm Prisoner: Call Sherry: Sherry goes over Heather's dismissal (7) (718555)
 - 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (7) (877555)

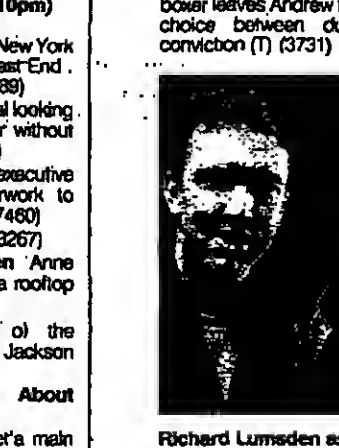
- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am News and Sport Current events (900278)
 - 7.00am WorldWide Part 13. Experiences of university education (7) (8158731)
 - 7.30am Milkshake! (2880557)
 - 7.55am Wipeout House (7) 5 News Update (468229)
 - 8.00am Newsweek (7) (2882809)
 - 8.30am Dappledawn Farm (7) 5 News Update (287480)
 - 9.00am Instant Gardens (5/14) (7) (4163697)
 - 9.25am Russell Grant's Postcards (7) (4441828)
 - 9.30am The Oprah Winfrey Show (5433147)
 - 10.20am Sunset Beach: Francesca's curiosity gets the better of her (7) (382170)
 - 11.10am Leesa (7) (6862539)
 - 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (7) (2885906)
 - 12.30am Family Affairs: Pete threatens Claire (7) 5 News Update (1283118)
 - 1.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful: Jack sets his bodyguards on fire (7) (8157002)
 - 1.30pm The Roseanne Show: Entertainment and chat; 5 News Update (1282489)
 - 2.00pm 100 Per Cent: Computer-generated quiz (248519)
 - 2.30pm Good Afternoon (747606)
 - 3.30am A Fight for Jenny (TVM 1986) A divorced mother marries a black man, but is challenged for custody of her daughter by her bigoted ex-husband. Drama, starring Philip Michael Thomas. Directed by Robert Greenwald (7) (2998163)
 - 5.20pm Sunset Beach: Show earlier (7) 5 News Update (721256)
 - 6.00pm 100 Per Cent: Computer-generated quiz (248519)
 - 8.30am Family Affairs: Clive goes on a blind date (7) (249151)
 - 7.00pm 5 News: Weather Round-up of the day's stories (7) (912606)
 - 7.30pm Natural Passions: Documentary about the Caribbean reef squid (7) 5 News Update (2485335)
 - 8.00pm Crime Report: John Taylor studies the baffling case of a woman and her elderly mother who were stabbed to death at their home in the isolated Norfolk village of Upwell (3/6) (9121354)
 - 8.30pm [CHOICE] Parking Rage: What's the story? Vanessa Collingridge explores the issues of parking; 5 News Update (9140489)
 - 9.00pm The Running Man (1987) Convict Arnold Schwarzenegger takes part in a brutal TV game show in which he's hunted through Los Angeles by trained killers. Futuristic action adventure based on Stephen King's novel, with Yaphet Kotto, Maria Conchita Alonso, Richard Dawson and Jim Brown. Directed by Paul Michael Glaser (7) 5 News Update (8123373)
 - 10.50pm Two Gals: A blind piano teacher from an attempted rape, but fails to understand her reluctance to report the incident (525621)
 - 11.50pm The Jack Docherty Show: Chat and music (8946373)
 - 12.30am Live and Dangerous: Sports magazine (38041836)
 - 3.45am Animal Football Show (7688045)
 - 4.40pm Prisoner: Call Sherry: Sherry goes over Heather's dismissal (7) (718555)
 - 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (7) (877555)



Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis star (9.35pm)



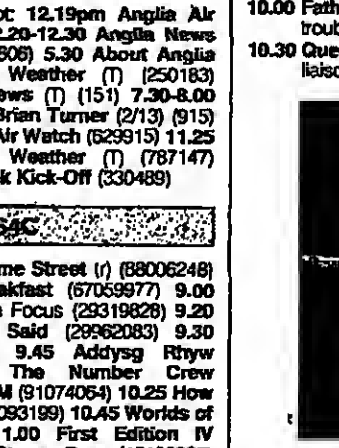
Richard Lumsden as Henry and Lucy Ashurst as Clara (10pm)



Richard Lumsden as Henry and Lucy Ashurst as Clara (10pm)



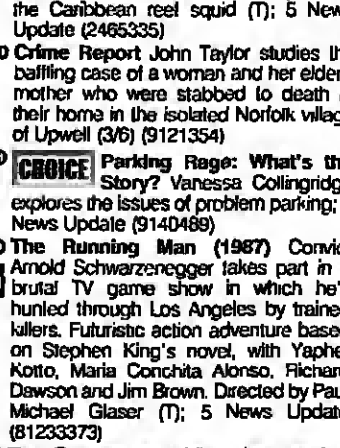
Richard Lumsden as Henry and Lucy Ashurst as Clara (10pm)



Richard Lumsden as Henry and Lucy Ashurst as Clara (10pm)



Richard Lumsden as Henry and Lucy Ashurst as Clara (10pm)



Richard Lumsden as Henry and Lucy Ashurst as Clara (10pm)

- SKY ONE**
- 7.00am Court Duckies (82625) 7.30 The Chase: Breakfast show (82625) 8.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 8.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 9.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 9.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 10.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 10.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 11.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 11.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 12.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 12.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 1.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 1.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 2.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 2.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 3.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 3.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 4.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 4.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 5.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 5.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 6.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 6.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 7.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 7.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 8.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 8.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 9.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 9.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 10.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 10.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 11.00am Jerry Lewis (82625) 11.30am Jerry Lewis (82625) 12.00am Jerry Lewis (826

MOTOR RACING 46

Todt encouraged to let Irvine off the leash at Ferrari

SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 9 1999

ATHLETICS 50

Gardener's bronze makes shining impression in Japan



McGrath brings West Indies to their knees in devastating finale to Test

Lara hits new depths of despair

FROM PAT GIBSON
IN PORT OF SPAIN

Port of Spain (fourth day of five): Australia beat West Indies by 312 runs

ANYTHING can happen, it has been said, in Trinidad. Frogs whistle, birds speak French and oysters grow on trees, but no one expected to see the West Indies of Sobers and the three Ws, Richards and yes, even Lara capitulate as pathetically as they did in the first Test against Australia here yesterday.

They were looking for flying pigs when the West Indies set off in pursuit of a victory target of 364. What they got was the sight of chickens coming home to roost as they collapsed pitifully to 51 all out, their lowest Test score.

The sublime notion was that they might be able to surpass their previous highest winning total of 348 for five against New Zealand at Auckland in 1968-69, when Sey-

England A triumph.....50
Derbyshire turmoil.....50

mour Nurse and Joey Carew both made hundreds.

The ridiculous reality was that they were hopelessly ill-equipped to cope with the fast bowling of Glenn McGrath, who took five for 28 to finish with ten for 78 in the match, and Jason Gillespie, who picked up four for 18, Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, who were expected to be Australia's match-winners, did not even get a bowl.

At one stage, the West Indies were 16 for five and in real danger of falling short of the lowest Test total in history — New Zealand's 26 against Len Hutton's England side, at Auckland in 1954-55.

As it was, they finished two runs short of their own previous lowest, 53 against Pakistan at Faisalabad in 1986-87, and they only got as many as they did because Australia gave them nine overthrows.

It was embarrassing to watch and impossible not to sympathise with Lara, whose first Test in what is effectively a two-match trial as West Indies captain had ended so



Gillespie, left, celebrates the dismissal of Campbell as the abject collapse of West Indies, inspired by the paceman and his partner McGrath, begins in Trinidad yesterday

calamitously in front of his fellow countrymen.

"Cricket is my life," he said, "and I think it's important that before I retire that I lead the West Indies back on the way to the top. I experienced a bit of that success in the early part of my career and I don't want to go through this sort of thing for the rest of it. It is going to be tough for anyone to lead a team that is not successful but it's a great honour to captain the West Indies. It's also a job and it's got to be done."

"I am trying to cope with it. I think it will help if I can turn my fifties and sixties into hundreds. The team needs someone to star with the bat. We've been missing that for quite some time."

The size of Lara's job is illustrated by the fact that the West Indies have lost ten of their past 14 Tests, seven under his captaincy. The bowling is still competitive enough, even though Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose are coming to the end of their careers. Ambrose took his 355th wicket in Tests to become the joint eighth-highest wicket-taker alongside Australia's Dennis Lillee.

The batting, however, is woe. The latest opening pair, Sherwin Campbell and Suraj Ragoonath, the twelfth to have tried and failed since the great alliance between Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes was broken up, could not stay in the team after being hopelessly exposed by McGrath and Ragoonath was doing no more than hang on when Gillespie put him out of his misery with

| LOWEST OF THE LOW | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS | LOWEST TOTALS BY EACH COUNTRY |
| 26 New Zealand v England (1954-55) | 26 New Zealand v England (1954-55) |
| 30 South Africa v England (1985-86) | 30 South Africa v England (1985-86) |
| 30 South Africa v England (1984) | 30 South Africa v England (1984) |
| 36 South Africa v England (1988-89) | 36 South Africa v England (1988-89) |
| 36 Australia v England (1902) | 42 India v England (1974) |
| 38 South Africa v Australia (1931-32) | 45 England v Australia (1986-87) |
| 42 Australia v England (1987-88) | 51 West Indies v Australia (1988-89) |
| 42 New Zealand v Australia (1945-46) | 52 Pakistan v Australia (1981-82) |
| 42 India v England (1974) | 71 Sri Lanka v Pakistan (1984-85) |
| 43 South Africa v England (1888-89) | 127 Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka (1986-87) |

with his usual expertise and the procession was under way. McGrath surprised Dave Joseph with a vicious bouncer which he edged to first slip and Lara, having got off the mark with a confident pull off McGrath, got an even better ball from Gillespie that left him off the seam as he pushed defensively forward and flew to second slip.

Jimmy Adams, who has been touted as an alternative captain, will be lucky to stay in the team after being hopelessly exposed by McGrath and Ragoonath was doing no more than hang on when Gillespie put him out of his misery with

another leg-before decision. Roland Holder, batting with a runner because of an ankle injury, provided more easy pickings for Mark Waugh when he backed away from McGrath and all the West Indies had left was a show of defiance from Ridley Jacobs before McGrath snared him as well.

The innings was all over in 191 overs and 102 minutes and even Steve Waugh, elated as he was by Australia's compelling all-round performance in his first match as captain, had to admit: "We didn't expect it to be so easy. There was a slight lack of technique out there."

There will be no let-up from the champions ("We are the No 1 Test team in the world and we want to keep on proving it," Waugh said) and that is desperate news for the West Indies who do not seem to have anywhere to turn.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul will be back for the second Test starting in Jamaica on Friday, but Carl Hooper is still unavailable and suitable reinforcements are hard to find.

Decline initiated by Taylor's team

BY RICHARD HOBSON

WHEN Australia last visited the Caribbean, the Test series was billed as a decider for the unofficial world championship. Four years on, the question is not whether West Indies will be beaten, but by how much.

Their decline can be traced to that controversial meeting in 1995. By securing a 2-1 success over the four matches, Australia brought to an end an unbeaten run stretching back 15 years and 29 series.

Any hopes in the Caribbean that defeat by Mark Taylor's side represented a temporary blip were soon discounted. England, accustomed to 5-0 beatings there, held them to a 2-2 draw the following summer and in 1996 West Indies lost by 73 runs to Kenya in the World Cup.

The next setback came in 1997 with a 3-0 series defeat by Pakistan, their first whitewash since 1928. When they lost 5-0 to South Africa this winter it appeared to represent their nadir — until they were dismissed for 51, their lowest total, by Australia yesterday.

Of the West Indies side that lost by an innings in the deciding game four years ago, Richardson has not been replaced

either in the dignity of his captaincy or manner of his batting. A paucity of emerging talent means that Walsh and Ambrose are bearing the brunt of the bowling at the pipe-and-slippers stage of their careers.

According to the Wisden world championship, West Indies are still third best among the Test-playing nations. The present-day reality, surely, is somewhat starker.

DiMaggio takes high rank among US greats

BY DEVLIN BARRIST

FOR THE past half-century, the name of Joe DiMaggio has been an American touchstone to ideals of grace and dignity in sport that will never be seen again. DiMaggio, who died yesterday, was Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Stanley Matthews in one — but neither of them married Marilyn Monroe.

To those who played against him, he was the knottiest 56-game hitting streak was typical of an athlete who made everything look maddeningly easy. "The Streak" has stood since 1941, and no player has come close to breaking it.

The only other sportsman to mean as much to the American public is Muhammad Ali but "John" Joe became an icon, partly because he was everything the brash boxer was not.

The son of an Italian immigrant fisherman, DiMaggio was a quiet, reserved man, even at the peak of his stardom.

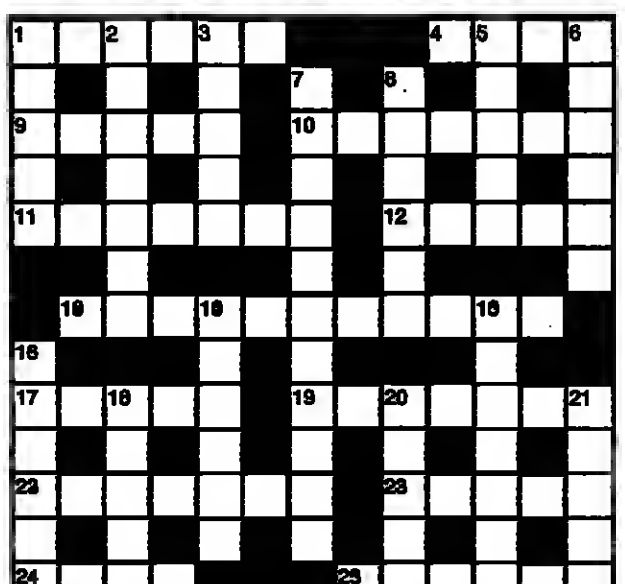
American athletes: DiMaggio

Obituary

book rise to fame. Each year the antics that have come to dominate professional sport, DiMaggio's smooth flowing movements and courtly demeanour made the rest of his Hall of Fame teammates look like plunkers. "Caddy Shugart," his manager, once said: "Joe was a real gentleman."

DiMaggio's "The Great Living Baseball Player" by generations of fans, he spent his final years attending autograph-signing events. His final appearance, at Yankee Stadium in September, was vintage DiMaggio. Wearing a dignified dark suit, the ultimate sporting hero was driven onto the field in a classic Cadillac convertible. He waved to the adoring crowd before leaving in thunderous applause.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1660

ACROSS

- Paper fastener; very important (6)
- River crossing (4)
- Have use of; like (5)
- Near-plane-crash incident (3,4)
- One cheating; a crab (7)
- Brainless film strongman (5)
- A putting back (11)
- Light beer; a camp (5)
- (Moon) not quite full; bulging (7)
- Close colleague (7)
- Excuse of being elsewhere (5)
- Twofold (4)
- Foul smell (6)

DOWN

- Bundle of egg corn (5)
- Give formal decision (7)
- Faithful (5)
- Repugnance (5)
- Harsh tyrant (6)
- One set off by tiniest pressure (4,7)
- Internal decay (lit. & fig.) (3,3)
- Headress of wound cloth (6)
- One from home of lost causes (7)
- Even-tempered, calm (6)
- Third-class (mark) (5)
- Strong wind, explosion (5)
- Hissing, rustling noise; elegant (slang) (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1659

- ACROSS: 1 Noah 4 Sideline 8 Disguise 9 Copy 10 Lever 11 Opposum 13 Poscur 15 Levied 18 Viscous 20 Polyp 23 Wild 24 Duodenum 25 Begrudge 26 Togo
- DOWN: 2 Olive 3 Hygiene 4 Skip 5 Deed poll 6 Locus 7 Neptune 10 Lip 12 Grounded 14 Orifice 16 Violent 17 Dip 19 Cider 21 Young 22 Doze

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-12) 99p. The Times Crosswords (Book 20) 99p. The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Book 3) is available to Times readers for just 4 (RRP £6.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 0171 444 444 for credit card orders or for further details, if paying by cheque/PO, please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and post to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 46, Falmouth, TR11 2TX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

SCOREBOARD FROM PORT OF SPAIN

| | |
|---|--|
| AUSTRALIA: First Innings 289 (G S Stewart 59, Second Innings 227 (M J Slater 106) | |
| WEST INDIES: First Innings 167 (G O McGrath 5 for 50) | |
| Second Innings | |
| S L Campbell c M Waugh b Gillespie.....0 | S Ragoonath bow b Gillespie.....0 |
| O R E Joseph c Warner b McGrath.....3 | S B G Lara c M Waugh b Gillespie.....3 |
| J C Adams bow b McGrath.....5 | T R O Jacobs bow b McGrath.....19 |

R I C Holder c M Waugh b McGrath.....4
C E L Ambrose bow b McGrath.....0
M J Slater run out.....0
P T Collins b Gillespie.....0
C A Walsh not out.....2
Extras (b 4, d 1).....7
Total.....51

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-8, 3-11, 4-16, 5-16, 6-31, 7-47, 8-47, 9-48.
SCORING: McGrath 10-3-28-5; Gillespie 8-1-16-4.
Umpires: P. Wiley (England) and E A Nichols.

Fans flock to Garden party

Srikumar Sen in New York finds the American public finally taking a British heavyweight seriously

Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield are now well into the final stages of their preparations for their encounter for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world.

Lewis has set up his training headquarters in the Eighth Avenue Gym of the American Athletic Club, while Holyfield, appropriately, has gone to the Church Street gym near Wall Street. It sounds like the sort of gym that Father Flanagan would have run in the film *Boys Town*, but it is in fact used by stockbrokers.

Whatever the outcome of the contest at Madison Square Garden on Saturday, Lewis can find satisfaction from the distinction of being the first British heavyweight to enter the ring as an equal of his American opponent.

The Garden sold out within the first few weeks of the fight being announced, faster even than the tickets for the first bout between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier at the same venue. This is only the fifth

time that the new Garden — there have been four in all — has been sold out. Three of the other sell-outs were the heavyweight contests between Ali and Oscar Bonavena in 1970, and the two Ali v Frazier bouts in 1971 and 1973. The gate receipts for this fight is the second highest of all time, \$12 million (around £7.5 million), just \$2 million short of the record held by the first fight between Mike Tyson and Holyfield in Las Vegas in 1996.

So great is the demand for tickets for Saturday's bout that it is reported that \$1,500 seats are being offered at \$4,000. Contests involving other British heavyweights, such as Henry Cooper and Frank Bruno, in their fights with Ali and Tyson respectively, generated huge interest for British sports enthusiasts, but the American

public regarded them simply as one-sided affairs.

The most amazing aspect of the contest's success was pointed out by Emmanuel Steward, Lewis's trainer but who used to be in Holyfield's corner. He points out that neither Lewis nor Holyfield are crowd-pullers by themselves.

"Lewis has not drawn big numbers because he hasn't fought big names, and Holyfield has only drawn big numbers because of the guys he fought," like George Foreman and Mike Tyson, and here we are with this fight breaking all records," Steward said. "For me it's the most important fight I have been involved in for ten years."

Steward added that he had turned down chances to work with Julio Cesar Chavez, Tyson, and Oscar de la Hoya to

get Lewis. "It's been a personal challenge to take a heavyweight with such potential and develop him for a super fight," he said. "The whole world is wanting to know what will happen. Even I don't know."

Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sports, which is the parent company of HBO, the cable network behind the contest, was delighted with the public and media interest. "New York and the fight business would be really alive this weekend," he said. "Everyone underestimated the public desire to see this fight."

"The Las Vegas odds is music to our ears. The press is split so the people tuning in will not know what's going to happen. Don King [the promoter] has done a tremendous job. He is talking about two millions buys [for pay-per-view], but a more reasonable figure would be a million. We would be ecstatic with a million and a half."

Ring of truth, page 48

PEARL HOTELS

3★ and 4★ breaks at the 'Inn' price of only £39.50 per room per night

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY NIGHTS
ALSO AVAILABLE MON - THURS AT SELECTED HOTELS
NO MINIMUM STAY! NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT!

| STAY BY SUNDAY 28TH MARCH | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| SOUTH WEST | |
| Plymouth | 50 yards from Sea |
| St Austell | City centre |
| Bath | City centre |
| AROUND LONDON | |
| Wokingham | Town centre |
| Westbridge | Town centre |
| SOUTH EAST | |
| Portsmouth | Seaford front |
| MIDLANDS | |
| Birmingham | Edgbaston |
| Nottingham | City centre |
| EAST ANGLIA | |
| Peasmarsh | City centre |
| WALES | |
| Llandudno West | Town centre |
| Llangollen | Town centre |
| NORTH | |
| Carlisle | Town centre |
| Leeds | City centre |
| Leeds | City centre |
| Harrrogate | City centre |
| Newcastle | Town centre |
| Darlington | City centre |
| Bradford | Town centre |
| SCOTLAND | |
| Aberdeen | Town Centre, Shing |
| Braemar | Village, Shing |
| Dunfermline | Close to Fort Bridge |
| Edinburgh | 5 miles from city centre |
| Fort William | Overlooks Loch Shing |
| Glasgow | Glasgow |
| Glasgow | 4 miles from city centre |

FAMILY ROOMS SAME PRICE - SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

TO BOOK CALL 0171 266 1100

visit website www.pearlhotels.com • Credit or charge card prepayment required